



The Times guide to the greatest marathon in the world. Special supplement



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You could soon be on your way to Jordan Competition details, page 8

20P

# THE TIMES

No. 65,227

WEDNESDAY MARCH 29 1995

## Alarm over compulsory retirement

# Over-70s rule forces law lords to quit

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SOME of the country's most distinguished judges will be forced from the bench this week when new compulsory retirement ages come into force.

No judge over 75 will be allowed to sit after Friday, and the normal retirement age will be reduced to 70. This means that the former Lord Chief Justice Lord Goff, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Lowry, Lord Templeman, Lord Roskill and Lord Ackner (from July) will all be barred from judicial work.

These senior judges have all retired, but have been helping with the heavy load of Privy Council and Court of Appeal cases when there is a shortage of serving law lords. Only last week, Lord Lowry gave the leading judgment in a landmark ruling on the age of criminal responsibility.

Under the Judicial Pensions and Retirement Act, 1993, all judges appointed from now on must retire at 70, although the Lord Chancellor will have discretion to call on them to help out until they are 75. At present, judges can continue to sit for as long as the Lord Chancellor wishes beyond the normal retirement ages of 75 for a High Court judge and 72 for a circuit judge.

A new pensions scheme also comes into effect on Friday, requiring judges to serve 20 years (rather than 25) to qualify for their pensions. The



Lord Goff: "Jolly nice chaps and interesting work"

combined effect of the legislation means that judges must be appointed before they are 50 if they are to earn a full pension and some judges predict that this will make it harder to recruit to the bench, as younger advocates at the peak of their earning power decide against switching to the less well-paid life of a judge.

The pensions law was passed in the face of unanimous opposition from the judiciary in 1992, and the Government only just avoided defeat in the Lords.

Possible problems raised by the legislation were highlighted at the time by Lord Taylor when the Bill went through Parliament. He said the 20-year pension rule would undermine the aim of reducing the retirement age, cause serious recruitment problems and

lead to judicial stultification and injustice.

Other judges have predicted that the new rules would mean delays in hearings, and some believe the implementation of the Act has been delayed until now because of the likely difficulty in finding potential judges. In the past two years there has been active recruitment to the High Court bench, with some 24 judges appointed — more than a third of the total.

But the Lord Chancellor's Department denied yesterday that a shortage of judges was the reason it had taken two years to bring the new law into force. "The regulations have been extremely complex and technical, and it has taken that long to get them into a shape that would work," a spokesman said.

Philip Vallance-White, principal clerk in the judicial office at the House of Lords, also denied that there would be delays in hearings, saying: "There has never been an occasion when an appeal had to be dropped from the list because five lords of appeal in ordinary were not available, and I don't expect that to happen now."

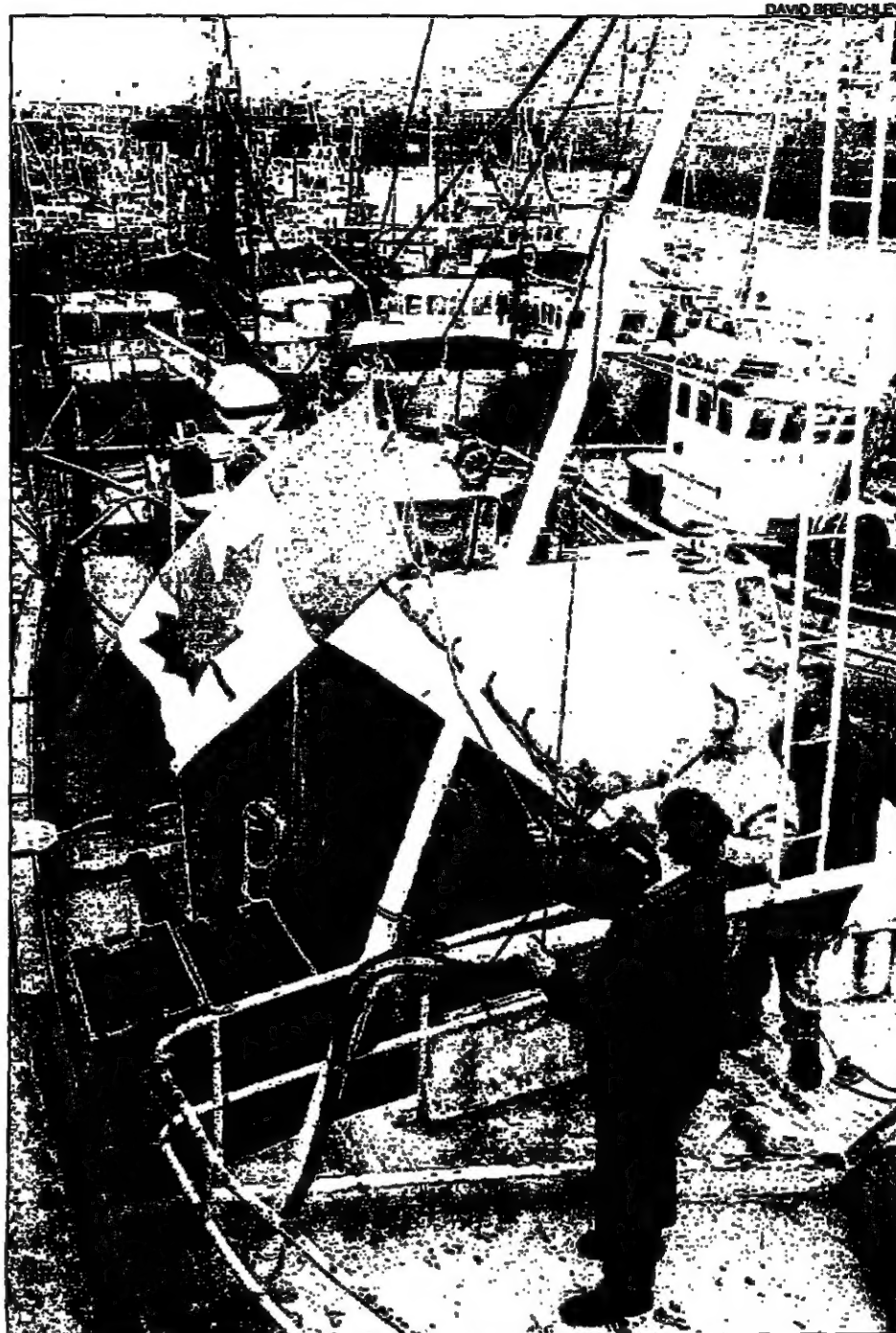
But asked whether the new law would mean delays, Lord Lane said: "I should have thought it would, particularly with a couple of judges out of context at present." (Lord Nolan, chairing the inquiry into standards in public life, and Lord Woolf, inquiring into civil justice.)

Lord Lane, 76, who last sat on a constitutional appeal to the Privy Council concerning two death row prisoners in Barbados, was sorry to be leaving the bench. "Of course I am regretful," he said. "I have thoroughly enjoyed it. They're a jolly nice bunch of chaps and the work is interesting."

Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls who is now "aged 96 and two-twelfths", last night criticised compulsory retirement of judges, saying: "You can often do good work after 75. I think I did some of my best work, gave some of my judgements of greatest value, after 75."

Lord Denning, who retired at 83, said that when the time came for a judge to go, "These things can be done quite informally. An intimation from your colleagues is passed on and he goes by it. I did this with Lord Widgery (Lord Chief Justice before Lord Lane), an intimation from me and he wrote to the Lord Chancellor immediately."

David Pannick QC, author of Judges also criticised compulsory retirement yesterday, saying: "People should be judged on their individual merits. Many judges over the compulsory retiring age are more than capable of continuing to do the job."



A crewman hoists the Canadian flag on the Kerkira in Newlyn harbour yesterday

## Spain sends in navy after Canada cuts fishing nets

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID AND JAMES LANDALE

A SPANISH Navy frigate was yesterday preparing to sail immediately to the northwest Atlantic to protect 17 Spanish vessels fishing for Greenland halibut off Newfoundland.

Canadian patrol vessels have already seized one Spanish trawler and cut the nets of another in the area.

Tomorrow a second Spanish fisheries patrol vessel, the *Serviola*, will arrive in the disputed area to join the *Vigia*. Both the Spanish boats, with a range of 8,000 miles, have a crew of 42 and are armed with a 76mm cannon and two machineguns.

Their task is to stop the harassment, boarding and capture of the Spanish fishing boats by the Canadians, a spokesman at the Defence Ministry in Madrid said. "But they are expressly forbidden to

use arms." In the Commons yesterday, William Waldegrave, the Agriculture and Fisheries Minister, said that Canada's decision to cut the nets of a Spanish trawler off Newfoundland on Sunday could have been fatal.

"Cutting the wires of a big trawler could have capsized the boat and killed someone, in which case the whole moral advantage which the Canadians have established would have been lost in one go," he said. "We have a very great deal of sympathy with the Canadians. We and other nations know there are questions about the Spanish obedience to the rules. But cutting nets is dangerous and illegal and the Canadians are in danger of ruining a good case by that kind of action."

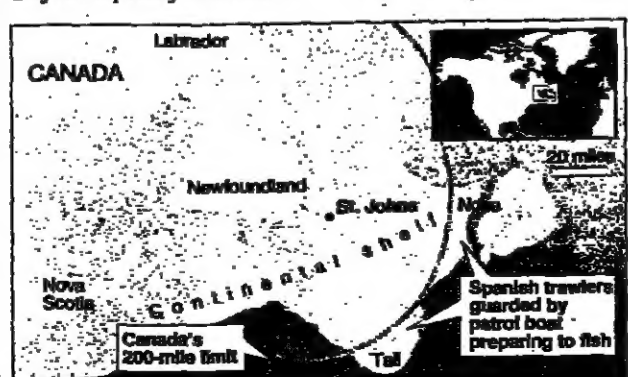
Mr Waldegrave also attacked Emma Bonino, the European Fisheries Commissioner, for using "intemperate and unwise" words by accusing Canada of piracy after breaking off talks on Monday.

Speaking in response to a question put forward by Labour, the Agriculture Minister told MPs that the dispute urgently needed to be settled and urged both sides "to show restraint in order to give the talks a chance of success."

He said that Canada was right to call for much tougher enforcement of the fisheries rules but that "this will only be achieved through negotiation and not unilateral action on the high seas."

Although the question of the EU imposing sanctions against Canada was not raised in the Commons, an official in Brussels said Britain would veto such action. "If we are serious about conservation of fish and a proper agreement in the North Atlantic, what we need is a proper agreement, properly enforced, and that means legal agreement first," Mr Waldegrave said.

Canada claims that Spain is overfishing the area and catching undersized fish, especially Greenland halibut. Madrid, however, denies that it is exceeding its catch limits.



Illegal nets, page 8

## Halifax merger to yield £500 share bonuses for millions

By ANNE ASHWORTH

MORE than 10 million borrowers and savers will be in line for a £500 bonus when the Halifax Building Society becomes a £10 billion bank next year, after its merger with the Leeds Permanent.

Each customer should receive around £500-worth of free shares but to qualify savers must have at least £100 in their account. Extra payouts of an estimated £500 are likely to be on offer for those who have been with the society for at least two years and have more than £1,000 invested. The amounts of shares given will be based on the balance in the account. Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at the City stockbrokers UBS estimates that those with £50,000 invested (the upper limit for the shareout) might receive as much as £3,000 in shares.

The High Court yesterday gave its assent to the scheme, after a friendly action brought by the Building Societies Commission, the industry watchdog, to clarify sections of the Building Societies Act which had seemed to prohibit such share distributions.

The ruling further highlighted the plight of half a million savers and borrowers with the Cheltenham & Gloucester who will not profit from the planned £1.8 billion Lloyds takeover. Other C&G investors stand to collect as much as £13,500. Cash payments to customers are covered by a different section of the Act. The much criticised C&G deal will be put to the vote this Friday in London at what now promises to be a stormy meeting.

The news of the High Court judgment was welcomed by the Independent Union of Halifax Staff. Ged Nichols, the general secretary, said the body would now be pressing for proposals on pay and

conditions of staff after the merger. There was opposition from the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU). Ed Sweeney, the deputy general secretary, said: "Jobs and service to the customer must be protected. The proposed creation of Halifax plc, aiming to be the fourth biggest high street bank, is not necessarily good news for the customer or jobs. The Halifax should stick to its building society roots." The union has said that it will contest job losses and branch closures. The Leeds and the Halifax have assured staff that there will be no compulsory redundancies.

Serge Lourie, of the Halifax Action Group, which opposes the move, said: "The merger and the conversion will give

Merger approved... 21  
Pennington... 23

less choice to investors and will lead to substantial job losses." Mr Lourie is also fearful that the failure to announce details of the shareout, including qualifying dates, is keeping savers locked into the societies, unwilling to withdraw money for fear of losing out on the share distribution.

There was fresh criticism yesterday of the C&G from Douglas French, Conservative MP for Gloucester, who accused the society of continuing to ignore forthcoming changes to the Building Societies Act which could benefit some of the savers currently excluded from the £1.8 billion payout.

A Bill, which has been put forward by Mr French, seeks to restore rights to second named holders on accounts who have failed to qualify under the terms of the C&G deal. The society has now moved to include the 5,000 widows who were previously denied their bonuses.

## Labour wins review of courts martial

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S Armed Forces court-martial system, the origins of which go back to 1385, is to be reviewed as a result of pressure from Labour MPs. Roger Freeman, the Defence Procurement Minister, agreed in the Commons yesterday to discuss possible changes in time for the next review of the Armed Forces Act, which is renewed every five years.

Although the Ministry of Defence made clear last night that Mr Freeman was not promising reforms, he said he was happy to hold all-party talks on the court-martial system. The possibility of a change comes in the wake of the increasing concern of MPs that military courts are no longer suitable for trying serious cases.

Courts martial often try serious criminal cases abroad where no British judges or counsel are available. George

Galloway, Labour MP for Glasgow Hillhead, cited the case of Christina Menzies, 16, the daughter of Staff Sergeant John Menzies, a constituent, who was murdered in a military barracks in Germany.

He said in the Commons that the military police, who were soldiers with police armbands, and the military prosecutor — "just a soldier in a wig" — had blundered in the case, adding: "The murderer walked free and is still at large and serving in Her Majesty's services."

Mr Freeman said everyone understood the grief of Christina's parents, who were in the Strangers' Gallery to hear the exchanges. "Anyone who is a parent will share the deep shock and the tragic loss," he said.

But he told Mr Galloway that he could not order the reopening of the trial. "It has been held and you have your deeply held views about the conclusion of that trial. It is not open to a Minister of the Crown to reopen that trial," he said.

Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls who is now "aged 96 and two-twelfths", last night criticised compulsory retirement of judges, saying: "You can often do good work after 75. I think I did some of my best work, gave some of my judgements of greatest value, after 75."

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David Pannick QC, author of Judges also criticised compulsory retirement yesterday, saying: "People should be judged on their individual merits. Many judges over the compulsory retiring age are more than capable of continuing to do the job."

## Father freed over 'false memory' abuse claims

By PAUL WILKINSON

A FATHER accused of sexually assaulting his daughter after she recalled incidents from her childhood was freed by a court yesterday when the prosecution admitted that the memories were fictitious and had emerged during psychiatric counselling.

As the father, 48, walked free from Teeside Crown Court 17 months after he was first arrested there was criticism of the Crown Prosecution Service for proceeding with a prosecution based purely on evidence from the mentally disturbed woman.

The man, a shop worker from North Yorkshire, said that he believed his daughter, now 22, was suffering from false memory syndrome, which devel-

ops in patients who are regressed, often through hypnosis, back to their earliest memories in an effort to find the cause of a psychiatric disorder. They recall memories of events that never happened.

There is concern about the use of such evidence in court. Few convictions have resulted from it in British courts, but the technique is used in America.

A British Psychological Society report earlier this year said that most recovered memories were accurate where they were obtained without inappropriate pressure on the patient. However, the society warned that the use of hypnosis and suggestion could lead patients to "remember" events that had never happened.

The father's defence team had to

obtain a court order to examine her medical records, which showed that she was prone to sexual fantasies.

Allegations against the father began when she was receiving therapy in 1992. During counselling at a North Yorkshire hospital, she said that her father had sexually molested her since she was seven.

The woman was arrested in 1993 for stealing from residents in a home where she had a job as a care worker and made the allegations then to police. The father was arrested in October and charged with his family and friends backing his story that he was innocent.

The father, who has three other children, was found not guilty of two charges of rape, two of incest and three of indecent assault between 1977 and

1993 after the prosecution offered no evidence. Angus Strayan QC, the Recorder of Newcastle upon Tyne, awarded him his defence costs.

The father said after the hearing that her mental problems began at 16 when she suffered from the slimmer's disease bulimia nervosa. "I still don't know what therapy she underwent at the hospital. My case mirrors exactly those of other men who were victims of the false memory syndrome... I love her and I desperately want her to get better. What she did is a manifestation of illness and not wickedness." His daughter is still an outpatient at the hospital. His wife said: "We want her back home."

The Northallerton Health Services NHS Trust, which includes the hospital, declined to comment.

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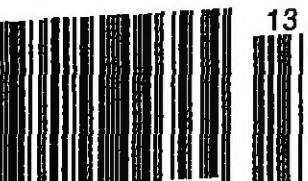
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# MPs flounder wildly as Commons codswallop trawls the depths

From a fish's point of view, yesterday was a depressing day in the Chamber.

Agriculture Minister William Waldegrave came to report on the Spanish-Canadian fisheries dispute. Peter Shore (Lab, Bethnal Green & Stepney) was afraid that Spain would soon singe the King of Newfoundland's beard, and warned of conflict on the high seas.

But the opening skirmish was between Labour spokesman Gavin Strang and Mr Waldegrave. The engage-

ment lasted half an hour, Strang listing heavily to port and shipping water. Waldegrave sailing off over the horizon and several small craft skipped by Tory Euro-rebels firing confusedly in all directions.

Sitting an exam, a student, confronted by the question "Discuss the Russo-Canadian fish war from the point of view of a) Russia; and b) Canada," once wrote: "Unfamiliar with either, I shall discuss it from the point of view of the fish."

Through the eyes of a cod,

Waldegrave was a flop. Four times he emphasised that disagreement was only about which nation should take the catch. From the point of view of the fish this is immaterial.

For MPs, however, it mattered a lot. They divide into factions, few of whom could tell a herring from a rock salmon but all of whom find, in fish, surrogates for a deeper conflict: between those who love and those who hate the European Union, those with sentimental ties to the old White Common-



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

wealth, those intimidated by angry fishermen, and those championed by Waldegrave who simply wanted us to calm down.

These are not tidy categories. The clash therefore involved some manic flag-waving, no logic, much splashing about and a number of unintended casualties. For the Opposition, Mr

Strang all but capsized before anyone had opened fire. This was due mainly to an inability to read his own notes or to get his tongue around phrases like "conserving fish stocks". His question "Will the Rt Hon Gentleman accept that fish do not recognise national boundaries?" was greeted with hilarity; and when Waldegrave stam-

pered "It's quite a long way across the Atlantic," the exchange took on a post-Oscars air of Forrest Gump.

Protesting that he was fond of Canada as the next man, Waldegrave dropped it lightly into conversation that "Newfoundland was discovered from my constituency". One of his relations, he added, had lent his name to a Canadian fishing vessel.

It got worse. The Tories Sir Don Thompson (probably because he loves Canada) reminded Waldegrave that the table at which he stood

was a gift of Canada. Waldegrave protested that the dispatch box was a gift of New Zealand, which was also true, but irrelevant. Probably because he hates the EU, and inwardly cursing the fates for placing Southern on the non-Canadian side of England, Sir Teddy Taylor (C, South-end E, Death to the Dagos Faction) invoked Canada's magnificent war record.

David Harris (C, St Ives, Calm Down Faction) called for more inspection: there was a confused exchange about net-cutting; a few MPs

told anti-Spanish stories. Miss Boothroyd called "We're going to move on!" everyone shouted "Arrrrr!" and Waldegrave sailed off, nets uncut and options open.

And the fish's viewpoint? Only landlocked, seal-loving Tony Banks (Lab, Newham NW) spoke for the fish. He wants to conserve cod.

But for seals to eat Weep, herrings, grieve, cod! There are votes in seals, there are votes in Canada, there are votes in Brussels and there are votes in fishermen. But there are no votes in fish.

## Tory Central Office denies orchestrated campaign against corporation

## Howard adds his voice to onslaught on BBC 'bias'

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND ALICE THOMSON

THE Cabinet was at the throat of the BBC last night after Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, led a fresh wave of ministerial allegations of biased reporting. Although John Major stayed above the fray in the Commons, senior Conservative Party officials said later he was "comfortable" with the onslaught by his lieutenants.

Labour MPs accused Mr Major of getting others to do his dirty work and the opposition parties claimed that ministers were trying to browbeat the BBC in the run-up to the local elections. Nick Harvey, the Liberal Democrat campaign director, admitted: "So far, it is working."

Adding his voice to those of Jonathan Aitken, Stephen Dorrell and John Gummer earlier in the week, Mr Howard denounced the prominence given by the BBC yesterday to a Labour crime

survey claiming that some offences have tripled since the Tories came to power.

At a Conservative Central Office local elections news conference he accused BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme of making the story the second lead while the "good news" story that electricity bills would fall by 2 per cent for millions of customers from next week was relegated to the business section.

The BBC said in a statement: "We stand by the integrity of our journalists. Jack Straw held a news conference on crime. All claims put forward are assessed carefully and impartially but pears for stories do come from sources other than the Government."

Jeremy Hanley, the Tory party chairman, stepped into the row and said that wherever he went around the country it was now widely accepted



Jeremy Hanley, flanked by Michael Howard, takes a question at yesterday's local elections press conference

that news could be fairer and reeled off pre-prepared examples of alleged bias.

Tory officials, who have stepped up their monitoring of the BBC's output, said they were not protesting about robust questioning. They merely wanted the BBC to ensure spokesmen for Labour and pressure groups were subjected to the same rigorous scrutiny.

Central Office denied that it was running an orchestrated

campaign against the BBC. And John Maples, a Tory party deputy chairman, said on BBC radio that it was "perfectly reasonable" for ministers to draw attention to what they felt was the unfair treatment of news. "There is nothing concerted about this."

In the Commons, Margaret Hodge, Labour MP for Barking, drew cheers from her own side when she said it was time the Tories paid attention to the *Daily Mail* and Sir Bernard

Ingham, the former Downing Street press secretary, and "stopped whingeing". Mr Major appeared to sidestep the row by saying that he "welcomed truthful reporting".

Not all Tories were keen on the media blitz. Sir Edward Heath said: "I would say shut up about the BBC and what it does and get down to the brass tacks of answering the points which have been made."

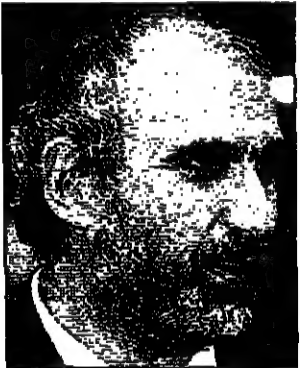
Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Com-

mission, warned yesterday that plans to introduce legislation outlawing electronic bugging and the use of telephone lenses could backfire on the Government as backbench MPs attempted to attach amendments to it that would introduce far stricter controls on the press than either the Government or the industry intended.

Peter Riddell, page 7  
Media, page 31

## Yentob says government attack could backfire

By ALEXANDRA FREAN  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT



Yentob: some criticism from MPs to be expected

THE controller of BBC1 warned the Government yesterday against all-out war as ministers stepped up their assault on the corporation. Alan Yentob said claims by senior Tories that the BBC was biased against the Government had no basis in fact.

"It would be counter-productive for the Conservative Party to allow a Tebbit-like offensive on the BBC as we come up to an election. I think they can see that within

the corporation commonsense is still there," he said.

Mr Yentob, who was on a tour of the Pebble Mill studios in Birmingham, added that the issue needed to be kept in proportion. "You would expect politicians to complain about interviewers and about the news media generally."

Senior managers at the BBC were also at pains to play down the conflict last night, claiming it was a low-level skirmish.

John Birt, the Director-General, and Marmaduke

Hussey, chairman of the board of governors, have remained aloof from the controversy, leaving Tony Hall, head of news and current affairs, to field inquiries.

In an article in *The Times* today, Mr Hall says he is not surprised by the latest criticism: "The reason is not too hard to find. At present, we're in the middle of the Scottish local election campaign, with the local elections in England and Wales not far away. On top of that there's the global warming of the whole political climate as eyes begin to

focus on the big prize of a general election," Mr Hall says.

Confidential BBC research obtained by *The Times* shows that few listeners agree with Jonathan Aitken, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who triggered the conflict by accusing the Radio 4 presenter John Humphrys of "open partisanship" against the Government.

Asked whether they thought Mr Humphrys, of the *Today* programme, "too often reveals his own opinions" during interviews, 84 per cent

of people questioned disagreed. Only 5 per cent strongly agreed. "Humphrys is more likely to be disliked by people aged over 65," a BBC source said. "But among younger people and ABs, he goes down a storm."

The corporation said yesterday that of the 193 calls from listeners and viewers it had received since Mr Aitken's criticism, 84 per cent were in support of Mr Humphrys and 16 per cent agreed with the minister.

Tony Hall, page 14

## 90 year old Koyada has been forced to retire early.



Koyada has worked hard all her life. She often worked incredibly long hours, returning home exhausted. But her wages were always low - and she was forced to use every penny just to feed herself. But Koyada is now 90 and too frail to work any more. Fighting back tears she told us she didn't know how she would survive. With no family to help her, Koyada's future looks bleak.

Will you give Koyada the future she worked so hard to provide for herself? Just £10 a month ensures she receives life's basic essentials; food, medicine and clothing. In return you receive a photograph of your 'grandparent' and regular updates showing the difference your sponsorship is making.

If you would like to find out more about helping elderly people like Koyada, return the coupon now to: Mrs Helen Riggs, Ref: 9818APIT704, Adopt a Granny, Help the Aged, FREEPOST, London EC1B 1JY.

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## Schools back state funding proposal

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

HEADS of independent schools backed proposals to offer them a new role in state education yesterday, but were given little encouragement by the major political parties.

John Major declared himself "not enthusiastic" about an effective revival of the direct grant scheme, which would bring Manchester Grammar School and others back into the state system. Labour said schools would first have to abandon selection.

Many of the 120 former direct grant schools approached by George Walden, the former Conservative education minister, reacted favourably to his proposal. Parents would continue to pay fees, but pupils from low-income families have free places.

David Smith, the headmaster of Bradford Grammar School and a governor of MGS, said: "I am interested in anything that preserves our social mix, although we certainly would want to maintain our freedom in relation to selection."

None of the main parties ruled out the latest proposal, but all expressed serious reservations. Pressed for a reaction in the House of Commons, Mr Major said he was anxious to build bridges between state and independent education, but was not enthusiastic about the latest proposal.

Leading article, page 15

## Leaders question diplomatic role

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR, Henry Kissinger, Sir David Putnam and leading broadcasters, industrialists, bankers, environmentalists and diplomats are throwing aside the conventions of their office today to take part in an unprecedented debate on where Britain's interests lie in today's world.

An open-ended conference will question the fundamentals of British postwar diplomacy, including the transatlantic relationship, the role of Britain's armed forces, the promotion of business and the spread of English in an attempt to provoke a national debate about foreign policy.

The conference in Westminster will cost £300,000. Catering by Prue Leith for the 500 participants will include quails in chutney and monkfish hollandaise.

One of the messages the Government wants to come out of the conference is that Britain is leaner, meaner and more competitive than voters, allies and competitors realise. That message is reflected in statistics issued to underline the main conference themes: the global importance of Britain's armed forces, the supremacy of English, the interdependence of the British economy and the effectiveness of British aid.

Britain has 215 overseas embassies and consulates, compared with Germany with 240, Italy with 253 and France with 286. Running the Foreign Office costs £1.3 billion a year, half of which is spent on the British Council, the BBC World Service, the United Nations and peace-keeping. Some 8.6 million British citizens live overseas, and 34

## Electricity firms cut bills by £6 a year

By A STAFF REPORTER

PRICE cuts of about £6 a year for more than four million domestic electricity customers have been announced by two of the regional power companies in England and Wales, with more expected to follow suit this week.

Southern Electric, with 2.5 million domestic and small business customers on the South Coast, is reducing prices by an average of 2.1 per cent from April 1, equivalent to a £6.36 cut from the average annual household bill of £303.

London Electricity, which has 1.9 million customers, 1.6 million of them domestic, is trimming its bills by a similar amount. The reductions of 7 per cent on standing charges and up to 2 per cent on prices will cut the current average bill of £282.50 by £5.93.

There were similar reductions by four other companies earlier this year, and more are expected. They have no link with the decision by the industry regulator, Ofwat, last Friday to institute a further review of the amount the companies charge.

Instead they relate to a ruling last August that the industry was required to implement by next month, which has since been largely discredited.

Customers in Northern Ireland are facing price rises of 5.9 per cent from April 1. Northern Ireland Electricity, which is governed by a separate price regime and is permitted to raise prices, blamed the increase on the rising cost of power generation.



Prince of Wales: will address the conference

has official status in 70 countries, and 60 per cent of all scientists speak English. By the year 2000 there will be a billion people learning English, earning Britain £500 million in language teaching and services.

The BBC World Service has an audience of more than 130 million - and more people listen to it than its five closest competitors combined. Britain is the sixth largest tourist destination.

Thomas Stuttaford, page 6

## Inquiry into escape of murder suspect

The Prison Service has launched an investigation into how a Briton suspected of committing five murders abroad while on the run was able to escape from prison. He was given home leave despite having absconded before. John Scripps is being held in Singapore for murdering a South African tourist and cutting up his body. Police believe he may be linked to the deaths of a further four victims in the Far East, Mexico and the United States.

Scripps vanished last October while on home leave from The Mount prison, Hertfordshire. On Monday the Prison Service denied reports he had absconded before. Yesterday it confirmed that he was convicted of drug smuggling in 1988 and sentenced to seven years. But in June 1990 he absconded while on home leave from Highpoint prison, Suffolk, and was arrested on the Isle of Wight for drug smuggling. He was given a second six-year consecutive sentence in January 1992 and became a category C prisoner, the lowest security.

## Sinn Fein talks 'soon'

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, said he was "fairly confident" that Sinn Fein and the British Government would soon agree to hold ministerial talks. Speaking after a meeting with Gerry Adams in Dublin, Mr Bruton said the two sides were acting in good faith and there was a "relatively small gap" to be bridged. Martin McGuinness, the leading Sinn Fein member, earlier sent a draft agenda for ministerial discussions to the Northern Ireland Office. He told officials that he was prepared to discuss any issue.

## Clarke snubs rebels

Kenneth Clarke angered the whippers yesterday by turning down their request to discuss a single currency with him. Last night eight of the nine MPs issued a statement contrasting the Chancellor's behaviour with that of Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, who met them in his Commons office on Monday to hear their concerns about immigration. Sir Teddy Taylor, their unofficial leader, said: "I've been an MP for 31 years and I've never been refused a meeting by any minister, even a Labour minister."

## Shire changes 'dearer'

The all-purpose local authorities that the Government wants in English shires are likely to cost more than the two-tier system they replace, the outgoing Local Government Commission said yesterday. Professor Malcolm Grant, acting chairman, also spoke of its dismay at the forced resignation of Sir John Banham, his predecessor.

## Mother hurt in beating

A woman was struck in the face by suspected republican paramilitaries who broke her son's legs in a punishment beating in Strabane, Co Tyrone. Up to seven masked men broke into Teresa Connolly's home on a nationalist estate on Monday night, and beat her son John, 26, with hammers and iron bars as he lay in bed. They then set fire to his car.

## Police forces sue IBM

Thirty-seven police forces in England and Wales are to sue IBM for allegedly failing to provide a computerised fingerprint system that works. The £5-million system, set up in 1992, is designed to store and match millions of criminals' fingerprints. However, several forces have returned to using paper records blaming longstanding computer problems.

## Children die in car fire



Faran Kaur, 7, left, and Simranjit Singh, 9, died with their father when he doused their car in petrol and set it alight in front of his ex-wife. Friends of the family said yesterday that Harkamaljit Singh, 35, of Forest Hill, southeast London, seemed unable to accept that Amarjit Kaur, 30, had been granted custody of the children.

## Parents in Gaelic protest

Parents on the Hebridean island of Barra are protesting about education cuts which they say will prevent children from being taught in their native language. Pupils at Castlebay primary school can have their first three years' schooling entirely in Gaelic, but Western Isles Council is planning to offer just two years' teaching in the language.

## Sleepy guard loses claim

A security guard sacked for sleeping on the job during a 111-hour week lost his claim for unfair dismissal yesterday. Christopher Mountain, 20, of Simonside, South Shields, who once worked a 64-hour shift, had received two written warnings from Delta One Security, which told the tribunal that Mr Mountain had volunteered to work extra hours.

## Britain's pet causes

The most recent annual figures for wills confirm that Britain remains a nation of animal lovers. A total of £582 million was left to the top 2,000 charities and those dedicated to the welfare of animals took the lion's share. The RSPCA was left £20 million, while Help the Aged received just £6.6 million.



'I saw the lights heading for me and thought: God, I'm going to die'

# Alive after 25,000 volts and train crash

By BILL FROST

A STUDENT, who was thrown into the path of a goods train by a 25,000-volt electric shock after he was chased on to a railway line by a gang of youths, spoke last night of his "remarkable luck" at having survived.

Lee Taylor, 22, spent five weeks in a coma and broke bones in his shoulder, hip, leg and chest and has regained his speech only after 20 operations. His surgeon said it was "very rare" for someone in his condition to have made such a recovery.

Mr Taylor, a business studies student, had been return-

ing home after celebrating his birthday at a college disco in Crewe when he was set upon. "I saw a gang of local lads and they shouted: 'Get him!'" I ran and jumped over a couple of fences and up a pylon to escape. I didn't know where I was and just sat on girder for a while. When I thought they had gone I sat up and touched the cable."

He suffered multiple burns and the shock threw him 20 feet on to the track below. "I felt the shock. It was terrible. I remember lying there and then seeing the light of the train coming towards me."

"I just lay there and thought: 'Oh my God, I'm

going to die. It's all over." When the train hit me I was thrown up against a wall and crushed. I thought the pain would never stop," Mr Taylor said.

He was found at the side of the track and taken to the burns unit at Whiston Hospital, Merseyside. His injuries were so severe that his parents, Robert and Carol, of Talgarth, Powys, did not recognise him.

Mrs Taylor, 39, who donated skin from the back of her legs for grafting, said last night: "Lee is a fighter and, thank goodness, he survived. He is so determined. That strength has surprised his

doctors — they say they have never encountered such courage. At first he could not speak after the accident. Now he has his voice back and it is so wonderful to be able to talk to him again."

After visiting his son, Mr Taylor, 40, added: "It is an absolute miracle that Lee survived. No one can explain it, but I suppose there must be someone up there looking after him."

Lee Taylor, a keen soccer player who has represented the Welsh Under-18s, has been transferred to Bronllys Hospital, Brecon, Powys, so he can be closer to his parents, who run a public house. He is

receiving constant physiotherapy, but cannot yet lift himself out of a chair unaided.

"It is only now that I realise how close I came to death. I think being fit helped me in many ways, although I don't think I'll play football again," he said. He hopes eventually to return to his business studies course.

Dr Ian James, his plastic surgeon, said: "It is very rare for somebody with such extensive injuries coupled with such severe burns to recover as well as Lee has."

Police in Crewe have so far been unable to trace the gang of youths that chased him up the pylon.



Lee Taylor: spent five weeks in a coma

## Ferrari show-off jailed for fatal crash

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MILLIONAIRE, who killed two pensioners when he crashed into their car while driving his wife's £130,000 Ferrari at high speed, was jailed for nine months yesterday.

Anthony Marsh, 54, had been showing off the Testarossa to his gardener when he crashed near his country home. Hereford Crown Court was told.

He had experience of driving high-powered vehicles but lost control and smashed into a Nissan Micra being driven by Joyce Davies, 61, of Birmingham. She was killed instantly and her passenger, John Sparrow, 69, of Cowley, Oxfordshire, died shortly after.

Marsh, 54, of Romsley, Hereford and Worcester, had denied causing death by dangerous driving. He was found guilty on Monday and sentenced yesterday.

He requested community service rather than jail because he suffers severe depression, but Judge David Wilcock said he had a duty to respond to public outrage at the deaths.

He told Marsh: "Something that day caused you to go to a far faster speed than you are used to. Speed in such a car is something you knew would cause danger and which tragically led to the loss of two lives." Marsh, who became a millionaire when he sold his slot-machine company, was also disqualified from driving for seven years.

The brother of Mrs Davies reacted angrily to the sentence. "Marsh's cash bought the best lawyers and doctors to fight his case and he got value for money," Edward Blackwell, 63, said.



Marsh: caused death by dangerous driving



York was coated in more than 2in of snow yesterday. Elsewhere in the county, roads were closed and temperatures fell last night to -6C

## Snow closes moorland roads

BLIZZARDS swept the country yesterday, causing traffic congestion in several counties. Falls of almost 6in were recorded on high ground in Co. Durham. Northumberland and the Midlands while light snow fell persistently in many cities across Britain.

East Anglia, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire had falls of more than 3.5in and melting snow froze last night as

temperatures dropped to -6C and made driving hazardous.

A number of roads across high ground were closed in the Staffordshire moorlands, the Peak District and South Yorkshire. Others were passable only with extreme care. Parts of the North, including the Vale of York, had more

than 2in of snow in low-lying areas.

West Yorkshire Police said that visibility had been poor on the M62 yesterday morning and snow had turned to sleet by lunchtime. The A6024 between Holmfirth and Manchester, and the A635 Greenfield Road were tem-

porarily closed and the A640 was passable only with care.

Roadwatch said that East Anglia appeared to be suffering the worst driving conditions, with blizzards reducing visibility to 150 yards in some areas. A number of roads were closed in North Wales, and London saw thick

snow flurries, settling in places.

The cold snap is expected to end today. Temperatures will become warmer in most areas, except the extreme north, and there should be plenty of sunshine. By the end of the week temperatures in the South East could reach 15C (59F), above average for the time of year.

Forecast, page 20

## Safari Boy sentenced to 12 free driving lessons after police chase

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE young offender known as Safari Boy, who spent 58 days on a character-building tour of Africa, was yesterday ordered to take 12 free lessons in safe driving — and disqualified from driving for a year — as part of an alternative to a custodial sentence.

Mark Hook's solicitor told Gloucester Magistrates' Court that the 18-year-old was possibly the most famous person in the county and probably the best-known to its police, and that fame was placing a strain on him.

Hook led police on a car chase in December two weeks after being released from a nine-month sentence of youth custody. He admitted in February driving

dangerously, while disqualified and without insurance. After reading a presentence report yesterday, the bench decided to give Hook another chance. The youth, whose record fills three pages and who usually offends every few days, had not been in trouble for three months.

He was fined £100, told to perform 100 hours of community service, put on probation for 18 months and disqualified from driving for a year. Hook was also instructed to take a driving course run by probation officers, involving lectures from police and road safety officers, driving lessons on private land and tuition in vehicle maintenance.

The presiding magistrate, Jeremy Dancy, said: "This is going to give you the opportunity to prove to yourself, the

court, the public and the press that you can behave yourself." Hook's solicitor, Steve Young, said: "It is a fact that he is sick and tired of all this attention. It is an extra burden on him. Having to run the gauntlet of the press each time he appears in court is an extra pressure."

Hook was "probably better known to the members of the constabulary in Gloucestershire than anyone else in the county. It may be that he is the best known person to the public in the county as well."

In 1993 Hook was sent to Bryn Melyn rehabilitation centre near Bala, Gwynedd, while awaiting sentence for a string of offences. He was taken on a £7,000 safari to Egypt, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Zambia. Politicians denounced the trip.

## Frederick West body removed from mortuary

By BILL FROST

UNDERTAKERS have removed the body of Frederick West from the mortuary where it has been kept since the alleged mass murderer's apparent suicide at Winsor Green prison on New Year's Day, 12 weeks ago.

A spokeswoman at the Birmingham coroner's office confirmed that the 33-year-old Gloucester builder's remains were collected on Monday afternoon. The body was apparently released to Stephen and Mae West, his eldest surviving children.

Stephen West was one of the few allowed to visit his father while he was on remand awaiting trial. He claimed in a newspaper report that Frederick West admitted killing all 12 of his alleged victims.

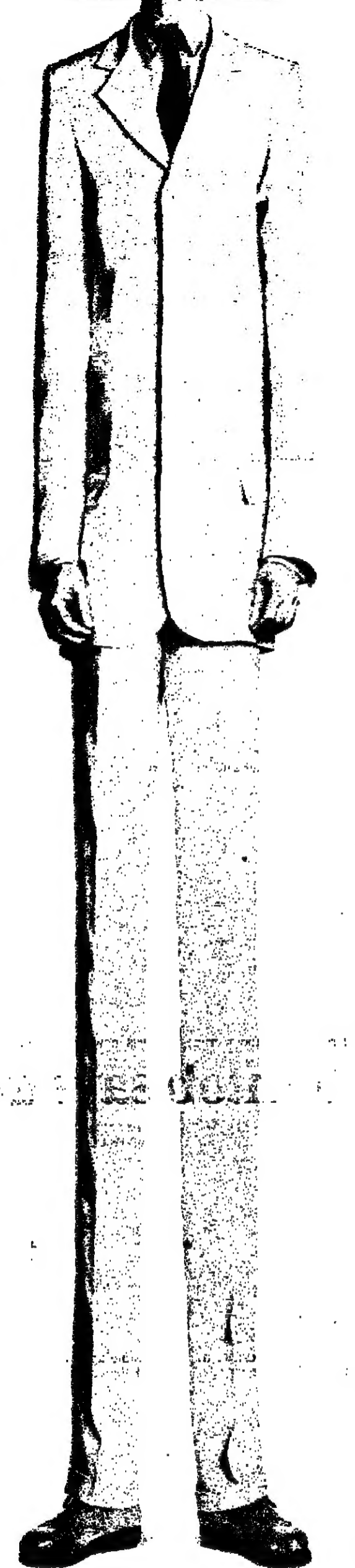
Shortly after West's death the coroner said that he would formally release the body to the care of Mrs Anne Marie Davis, 30, West's daughter by his first wife Catherine Costello-West. However, it had since lain in the mortuary.

It was not clear yesterday where the body had been taken. There were reports that a cremation may be held "within the next few days".

Frederick West's widow Rosemary, facing trial for allegedly murdering ten of the girls, is apparently not interested in the fate of her late husband's remains. Leo Gostley, her solicitor, has said: "Any kind of tie that existed was severed long before he died. Rose has not mentioned him."

Residents in Much Marcle, the village where he grew up, have threatened protest action against any move to bury West near his parents' graves. Meanwhile, people living near Gloucester crematorium have said they will "block the road" if any attempt is made to hold the funeral there.

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## SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



## Stars of style

CLOTHES BY GIANNI VERSACE,  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD AVEDON  
IN THE

**MAGAZINE**

PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 95, WEEKEND MONEY AND  
VISION — THE 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE

THE SIX-SECTION TIMES IS  
30P ON SATURDAY

## Paranoid ex-patient stabbed housemate

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A PARANOID schizophrenic killed his housemate only six months after being released from hospital under the Government's care-in-the-community scheme, a court was told yesterday.

After a dispute over cleaning the bath in January last year, Adrian Holloway, 28, stabbed Moraj Mohammed Akhtar, 37, in the chest. Mr Akhtar, an Afghan refugee, had a history of psychiatric illness. The Old Bailey was told. Holloway was found guilty of manslaughter but cleared of murder.

The jury was told that Holloway, who was described by a doctor as dangerous when not receiving treatment, had been released from St Peter's Hospital in Chertsey, Surrey, in June 1993. He moved into a house in Southall, west London, which was used for patients considered capable of living in the community.

Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny ordered Holloway to be detained in a secure hospital.

## Sadist killed after dreams of violence

A SADIST who had dreamt of killing for years was sent to Rampton high security hospital yesterday after admitting he strangled and stabbed his girlfriend to death.

After killing Zacherley Brynir, Alan Hall told police: "It is a relief having murdered someone, you know. I have often thought about killing someone. I knew I would do it for ages but it was not planned, it just happened."

Hall, 29, from central London, had denied murdering Miss Brynir, 22, on June 29 last year but admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

His plea was accepted after the court was told that three psychiatrists agreed he suffered from a severe psychopathic disorder of a sexual and sadistic nature. "You are a grave and immediate danger to others," Judge Denison, Common Serjeant in the City of London, said at the Old Bailey.

He ordered that Hall be sent to Rampton for assessment over 12 weeks, adding: "I do not know whether your condition is susceptible to medical treatment and until I do I cannot dispose of the case." Miss Brynir, whose mother lives in Hampstead, north-



Brynir: strangled and stabbed by boyfriend

west London, and father in Belgium, had wanted to become a model.

She absconded from a halfway house where she was receiving treatment for schizophrenia and within days moved into Hall's home. Hall told police that he had put a flex round her neck and stabbed her with a pair of scissors. He said she had done nothing to upset him: it was an entirely unprovoked attack.

He said he had had waves of violence overcome him over five years, mainly towards strangers. "I have often had thoughts of killing in my mind," Hall said.



# The way he works you'd think he had something to prove.

Anton Guzara works for DKS Packaging, a company that manufactures tins.

He has limited movement of his hands, and his facial disfigurement was caused by burns when he was younger.

Neither his hands nor his face have stopped Anton being an excellent employee.

In fact, his enthusiasm for work has rubbed off on everyone else.

In the two years he's worked for DKS, Anton has never been late or taken a day off in sickness.

At the moment, he's employed as the company troubleshooter and fills in wherever he's needed.

One of his colleagues said jokingly, "There's really only one thing Anton can't do at work, that's sing in key."

DKS have never had any reservations about employing people with disabilities. Their attitude is to judge people by their abilities, not their disabilities. That's why they use the disability symbol.

Freephone 0800 567 667 (minicom 0800 444 265) for a leaflet which will tell you about the symbol.



Show you employ people for their abilities. Use this symbol.

Women  
right to  
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Unfunny  
cleared of

مكتبة من الامم



# Britons awarded walk-on parts as Gump dominates Oscars



Best actor and actress. Tom Hanks and Jessica Lange, plus Oscars

FROM GILES WHITTALL  
IN LOS ANGELES

A CINEMATIC contest that divided America into "Gumpers" and *Pulp Fiction* fans ended in a triumph for *Forrest Gump* and left disappointed British nominees clutching four of the minor Oscars at the 67th Academy Awards in Los Angeles.

Instead of recipients, the big guns of British cinema featured as presenters and gracious losers as Tom Hanks became the first actor since Spencer Tracy in 1938 to win a second consecutive best actor award.

For Britain, Elton John and Sir Tim Rice took the best original song award for *Can You Feel The Love Tonight?* from *The Lion King*; *The Madness Of King George* won in the art direction category; and there were Oscars for British pairs in the two short film categories, best animation (*Bob's Birthday*) and best live action (*Franz Kafka's It's A Wonderful Life*).

Elton John, 48, who performed at the ceremony, dedicated his Oscar to his grandmother Ivy, who died last week. He told the audience, which included stars such as Jack Nicholson, Paul Newman, Jodie Foster and John Travolta: "She was the one who sat me down at the piano at the age of three and made me play, so I'm accepting this in her honour." His parents accompanied him to the ceremony on

Elton John made an early start to his career. Another British winner was *Bob's Birthday*

Monday night, televised to an estimated one billion viewers.

*Forrest Gump*, with 13 nominations, took best film, best director (Robert Zemeckis) and best actor with a predictability that sapped the 3½-hour ceremony of real suspense.

*Gump* also won Oscars for its celebrated visual effects, which include computer-aided "meetings" between Hanks and three American presidents, and for best adapted screenplay — a category in which Alan Bennett was nominated for adapting his own stage play, *The Madness Of King George III*.

Nigel Hawthorne was "not disappointed" at failing to win the award for his performance as King George. On his way into a post-Oscar cocktail party in Beverly Hills he said: "When you have a nomination there are no

losers. It was quite clear that the awards weren't going our way."

Helen Mirren, who plays "Mrs King" opposite Hawthorne, was thwarted in the best supporting actress stakes by Dianne Wiest (*Bullets Over Broadway*). Miranda Richardson was beaten in the best actress category by Jessica Lange, a favourite among American critics for her role as a depressed but seductive military wife in *Blue Sky*, a film completed four years ago then stored in a New York bank vault because of Orion Pictures' bankruptcy.

Britons who featured as presenters included Sir Anthony Hopkins, Jeremy Irons and Hugh Grant, who mocked his own failure to be nominated for an acting award for his part in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. Although nominated seven

times, the violent and mould-breaking *Pulp Fiction* won only one award for its writer and director, Quentin Tarantino, who shared best original screenplay with co-writer Roger Avary.

The closest thing to an upset came in the foreign language category in which the Oscar went to Russia's *Burnt By The Sun*, rather than Taiwan's sex comedy *Eat Drink Man Woman*. It is only the third time a Russian film has won the award. The previous winners were Sergei Bondarchuk's epic version of *War And Peace* and the inappropriately named, abundantly lachrymose *Moscow Does Not Believe In Tears* in 1980.

Margot Norman, page 13  
Alan Coren and  
Diary, page 14  
Media, page 31

## Animated success continues

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S reputation as a world leader in film animation was confirmed on Monday night when *Bob's Birthday*, a cartoon about a dentist going through a mid-life crisis, took the Oscar for best animation. It is the fourth time in five years that the award has gone to a British animator.

Alison Snowden, 36, from Nottingham, who wrote and produced *Bob's Birthday* for Channel 4 with her Canadian husband David Fine, said she hoped her success would give the British animation industry a further boost. "I am a product of everything that happens in the British industry, from the film schools to Channel 4 and the BBC, which provide opportunities and financing for animators to make adventurous programming," she said.

The cartoon, about a surprise 40th birthday party, features the voices of the comic Harry Enfield and Andy Hamilton, a writer on Channel 4's comedy *Drop the Dead Donkey*.

## Women win right to join top rugby committee

BY JOHN GOODBODY AND MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE English Rugby Football Union has unanimously decided that women can become full members of its national committee. The landmark ruling came after Beverley Davis, a woman rugby official, took the RFU to court alleging sex discrimination.

She claimed her ambition to be the first woman on the general committee had been blocked because the RFU's regulations implied that women were not eligible to sit as full members.

A judge at Brentford County Court decided Mrs Davis had a case and granted an injunction preventing the RFU from hindering her from standing for election as Cornwall representative on the RFU committee or from taking her seat on the 56-strong committee if elected.

Yesterday Mrs Davis, 35, a dentist and secretary of Helston RFU, said she was glad she had gone to court and forced the RFU to clarify its rules. "Without the court case the RFU would have gone on in their old way, avoiding the issue. I forced them to make a decision on the issue and I am very pleased to be able to seek election on the same grounds

as other candidates when voting takes place." Mrs Davis, of Helston, said she would continue her election campaign "in a low-key way".

She was supported in the legal action by the Equal Opportunities Commission. Hilary Slater, the commission's principal legal officer, said: "Women, if elected, will now be able to play a full part on the game's governing body. The RFU has recognised that they can make a valuable contribution to the administration of the game at national as well as local level."

Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary, said a committee meeting on March 24 had unanimously resolved that its rules did not bar Mrs Davis from standing for election. He emphasised that it had never been the RFU's intention to hinder Mrs Davis but said that the interpretation of the rules had required clarification.

Mrs Davis, a member of the Helston committee for 11 years, wants to succeed Bill Bishop as Cornwall's representative when he vacates the post to become RFU president in July. She took legal action last month because she was concerned that she would receive fewer votes than the six male candidates in the election because of doubts about her eligibility.

Cornwall RFU had believed that she was ineligible because a national regulation states that "the qualifications, which govern the Union's selection for England teams, [that they are male] shall apply to all persons nominated for constituent body representatives on the committee". The county will fix a date for the election on Monday.



Davis: rugby club official for 11 years

French squad, page 36

## Unfunny Oldie cleared of sexism

BY JOE JOSEPH

RICHARD INGRAMS, the former Editor of *Private Eye* and current helmsman of *The Oldie*, was cleared by an industrial tribunal yesterday of sexism and unfair dismissal. However, the tribunal found his sense of humour wildly unamusing.

It disallowed claims by Laura Andru, 31, *The Oldie*'s former advertising sales manager, that she had been dismissed unfairly when the magazine folded last July and had faced sexual discrimination in not being rehired when it was relaunched with a largely male staff. However, it branded Mr Ingram's insensitive and irresponsible for issuing a press release after the dismissal of five female staff in which he said: "The

*Oldie*'s sexist staff policy is completely intentional."

Colin Challenger, for *The Oldie*, said that the release had been satirical and that, while it may have shown bad taste or been "just a very bad joke", it was not a reflection of staffing policy. Michael Rabin, the tribunal chairman, said: "We deplore the language and attitudes implicit in the release."

Miss Andru said that Mr Ingram had added insult to injury when he allegedly said in *The Sunday Times* that "all women should be exterminated from the face of the earth". She said the result was "no big surprise. Basically it was me against the big boys. I still think that Richard Ingram runs a sexist policy at *The Oldie*."

Man  
will never  
conquer  
space.



# Reformers seek easing of rules in trauma cases

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

REFORMS to help people such as the relatives in the Hillsborough disaster to claim damages for psychological trauma are called for by the Law Commission today.

The commission proposes that claimants should no longer have to be close in time and space to the disaster, nor to have witnessed it physically; they could have viewed it on television. But limits must be drawn to prevent "the floodgates of litigation" being opened, the Government's law reform body says in a consultation paper.

The proposals coincide with a test claim by police officers who say they were traumatised by the Hillsborough disaster. Twenty-three officers are claiming up to £250,000 each, even though those who lost relatives in the tragedy have had claims rejected by the House of Lords. There are fears that, if the officers win, the judgment could pave the way to claims from more members of the emergency services and armed forces.

At present there are strict tests on who should qualify for damages for post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the death or injury of another person. The criteria were set down by a Lords ruling on the Hillsborough cases, which held that to recover damages the claimant must have a close tie of love and affection to the person killed or injured, or be a rescuer, be close to the accident in time and space, and perceive the accident through "unaided senses" — that is, not on television or radio.

Because of those tests, all but one of the relatives failed

in their claims. In their paper today, the Law Commission says the tests are too restrictive. It recommends removing the requirements of physical and temporal proximity and also the need to perceive the accident directly through "unaided senses".

The commission says: "For the law to distinguish the claims for shock-induced psychiatric illness of one mother present at the scene of her son's death or at its immediate aftermath, from that of another mother who was not present but came across the aftermath several hours later or who heard about the accident from a friend or saw it on television, might justly give rise to accusations of arbitrary and insensitive line-drawing."

But the commission says there do need to be some limits. Professor Andrew Burrows, commissioner in charge of the consultation paper, said that although the commission believed it "important to retain special limits on liability for psychiatric illness, our provisional view is that some of the existing limits are arbitrary and unjust and should be removed by legislation".

The paper seeks views on whether firemen and policemen should be precluded from recovering damages for psychiatric illness suffered in the course of their work, as well as whether there should be liability on newspapers and broadcasters who cause such illness by negligently communicating false news.

□ **Liability for psychiatric illness: A Consultation Paper** (Law Commission Consultation Paper No 137, Stationery Office: £13.95)



Dave Courtney: "To me, this is the best job I have ever had to do"

## Minder and the Bill watch over Ronnie Kray

By ALAN HAMILTON

THEY are already talking in the East End of a funeral fit for a king. Associates of Ronnie Kray predict the biggest turnout today since they laid Sir Winston Churchill to rest.

Kray died almost two weeks ago, aged 61, while serving a 30-year sentence in Broadmoor for the murder of George Cornell. He is expected to draw a crowd of thousands on the streets of Bethnal Green to watch the cortege, led by a horse-drawn hearse and followed by 21 black Daimlers, wind its way to St Matthew's Church and then to the family grave at Chingford.

One of the most notorious and glamorous of the old-style villains, who reigned before drug and mugging gave crime a bad name, he has lain in state like Lenin for the past week in an open oak coffin at English's funeral parlour in Bethnal Green Road, half a mile from Vallance Road where Vi Kray brought up her sons Ronnie, Reggie and Charlie. The funeral parlour is next to a police station. Even in death, the Bill are watching him.

Sixty heavies have been guarding the corpse round the clock, admitting only bona-fide family and friends and discouraging the casually nosy. Dave Courtney, chief bodyguard and occasional television actor, declined to admit *The Times*. The shaven head, stubbly chin and fistful of gold rings each the size of a clawhammer indicated that press rights of access might not be the most fruitful line of argument.

Mr Courtney was, however, willing to vouchsafe his views. "I see it very much as an honour. For a criminal, losing someone like Ronnie or Reggie Kray is like losing the monarch. To me, Ronnie is now lying in state. I have

looked after princes and actors, but to me this is the best job I have ever had to do. That's why I'm doing it for nothing."

Mr Courtney said that he had discussed funeral arrangements and crowd control with the Kray family and senior police officers. "Lots of mourners will be from the other side of the fence, so to speak, and they won't want to be ushered around by a lot of uniformed policemen."

He described his charge lying within: "He looks well. He looks awesome, in a way. He is dressed in a crisp white shirt and black tie, without his



Ronnie Kray: through the manor borne

glasses." When not organising a guard of dishonour for a dead villain, Mr Courtney, who served four years for attempted murder, is engaged in "bread-and-butter scummy work such as evicting squatters, debt collecting, repossession of cars, and offering a 'rent-a-clump' service."

The chief mourner will be handcuffed to a prison officer. Ronnie's twin brother Reggie, serving 30 years in Maidstone for the murder of Jack "The Hat" McVitie, will be allowed out for the day to join a show of last respects to a criminally insane, homosexual, chain-smoking folk hero.

## Car death remands

A man of 23 was remanded in custody yesterday, accused of killing Nicola Phillips, 19, daughter of the captain of HMS *Endurance*, in a crash involving a stolen car. Daniel Norris appeared before Portsmouth magistrates with Mark Smith, also 23, who was remanded in custody on burglary and motoring charges.

## Hospital delay

Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Trust has paid an £850 private treatment bill after telling a four-year-old girl's parents that her broken wrist could not be set until the next day.

## Thirsty work

Customers have been offered a free pint of beer if they inform staff about under-age drinkers in the bar of the Rising Sun public house in Wimborne Minster, Dorset.

## Girl saves family

Danielle Auty, four, rescued her brother from their blazing bedroom and then alerted her parents using fire drill she had learnt at her school in Bridlington a fortnight before.

## £121,000 VC

A Victoria Cross awarded to Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Keyes, 24, who died trying to capture Rommel in 1941, sold for £121,000 to a private British bidder at a Spink auction.

## Pickwick hotel

The Great White Horse Hotel at Ipswich, made famous by Charles Dickens in *The Pickwick Papers*, is for sale with seven other group properties for a total of £4 million.

## Heart warning

Men who have trouble sleeping are twice as likely to develop heart disease, according to Californian researchers who believe that insomnia is an indicator of high stress.

### THE TIMES/DILLONS LECTURE



## Landscape & Memory: an evening with Simon Schama

SIMON SCHAMA, right, author of the award-winning *Citizens* and one of the most imaginative and exciting historians writing today, will talk about his latest book *Landscape & Memory* at The Times/Dillons lecture on Tuesday, April 11. *Landscape & Memory* is a thought-provoking and ground-breaking study of the interplay of ideas between culture and landscape. Schama, described as "the Mozart of history", will show how our environment is affected by the way we think. A five-part television series, based on the book, will be shown on BBC2 in late April. The lecture, chaired by Matthew d'Ancona of *The Times*, will be held at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London, WC2, at 7.30pm on April 11. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50), which include £5 off the price of the book, are available by ringing 0171-915 6612, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-580 7680, or by sending it with your remittance to Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London, WC1, where tickets can also be purchased.



### THE TIMES DILLONS LECTURE

Please send me ..... tickets at £10 each (concessions £7.50) for the Schama Lecture at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2, on Tuesday, April 11

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## Community awards mark decade of good neighbours

By JOHN YOUNG

THE tenth annual Community Enterprise awards, sponsored by *The Times* and *Touche Ross* and organised by Business in the Community, are launched today. Past awards have provided an incentive for thousands of projects in which local people work together to benefit their communities.

Last year the number of entrants almost doubled from 387 to 762 and this year it could well exceed 1,000. Past winning projects have ranged from village youth centres to providing premises for workshops and small businesses in rundown inner-city districts.

Expenditure has ranged from a few thousand pounds to several million, with many larger projects attracting substantial support from commerce and industry. Each year an overall winner is selected for the Charles Douglas-Horne award, named after the late editor of *The Times*.

The winner of the first award in 1986 exemplifies the far-reaching effects that can flow from the humblest beginning. When Paddy Doherty set up the Derry Inner City Trust in 1981 with a handful of small grants and loans, he was determined to attempt to restore a city suffering almost daily destruction from terrorist violence. Since then the trust has spent more than £15 million on restoration and conservation and will shortly open a £45 million heritage centre. The awards, which have



enjoyed support from the Prince of Wales as patron and latterly as chairman, are worth £20,000 and are divided into six categories:

□ The Chartwell Land/Housing Associations Charitable Trust Award for helping the badly housed and homeless

□ The Community Enterprise Award for new or refurbished buildings supplying social, educational and recreational needs

□ The Marks & Spencer Award for community services, including social and health care and crime reduction

□ The Times Award for improvements to the local environment

□ The United Biscuits Award for business development and training

□ The Touche Ross Award for projects initiated and developed by young people

Projects completed between January 1, 1992, and June 16, 1995, are eligible. Details and entry forms can be obtained from The Community Enterprise Awards, Business in the Community, 8 Stratton Street, London W1X 6AH (0171 639 1600). The closing date is June 16.

## Tourists pay for release of lions

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

TWO lions kept in cages on the roof of a disused bar on a Spanish tourist island are to be flown to an animal sanctuary in Kent after British holidaymakers helped to raise £58,000 for their release.

Visitors to Playa de Las Americas, Tenerife, were upset by the conditions in which the five-year-old lions and a leopard lived, apparently locked in 7ft by 9ft cages and fed live dogs and stagnant water. Guests at a hotel near by said the cages were strewn with excrement and rubbish and they could hear the animals' screams at night.

The Born Free Foundation, based in Dorking, Surrey, was making final arrangements today to fly the lions to Britain. They cannot be released into the wild because they have spent so long in captivity. The leopard is likely to go to Namibia where it will be cared for by African, an African charity.

The Born Free Foundation, established by the actress Virginia McKenna, has arranged for the animals to be cared for in Loro Parque Zoo, Tenerife, until their flight.

Scientists working for the Zoological Society of London yesterday set free 45 sand gazelles in Saudi Arabia after an eight-year breeding programme. The gazelles, virtually extinct in the wild, were among 800 kept at the King Khaled Wildlife Research Centre near Riyadh.

Leading article, page 15

## Polar bears go hungry as Arctic ice retreats

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

POLAR bears on the edge of the Arctic are rapidly losing weight as rising temperatures make it harder for them to hunt their favourite food, ringed seals. Scientists studying their lifestyle fear that some populations are being pushed to their limits.

The ice on which the bears hunt is freezing in late November or December, more than a month later than previously, and melting earlier, forcing the animals back on to land where there is little or no food for them. They are having to

hibernate for longer, which is further depleting the bears' vital fat reserves.

Dr Ian Stirling of the Canadian Wildlife Service in Edmonton, Alberta, told an international gathering of Arctic scientists organised by the British Ecological Society at Aberdeen University: "The length of time the ice stays on the water increases or decreases the amount of seals they catch as they do not catch much in open water."

Polar bears hunt by lying quietly next to breathing holes



Polar bears can effectively shut down their kidneys

## Kidney treatment clue

SCIENTISTS are studying polar bears in an attempt to improve the treatment of kidney patients, after discovering that the bears can operate without their kidneys for long periods.

Dr Ian Stirling, of the Canadian Wildlife Service, said yesterday: "One of the most fascinating things about polar bears is that they can regulate all their bodily

wastes and make water at the same time." He and scientists at the University of Illinois suspect that a hormone made by the bears could be responsible.

They hope their findings will help patients who have to spend a long and painful time in dialysis. Further studies of polar bears may also aid the treatment of obesity and anorexia.

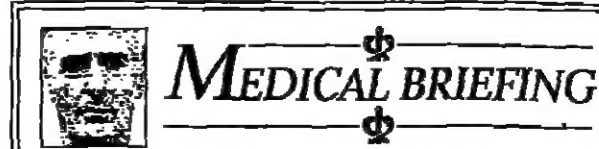
## End of book subsidy undermines great tradition

THE Prime Minister's intention, which he will reiterate today at a conference sponsored by the Foreign Office and the Royal Institute of International Affairs, is to promote British goods and services overseas. His audience will include, as well as the Prince of Wales and the Foreign Secretary, hundreds of business leaders and politicians. It is reported that Mr Major will tell them that universality of the English language and British culture could be exploited to greater effect.

Mr Major's ideals contrast with the decision announced on March 9 by Baroness

Chalker of Wallasey, the Foreign Office Minister, to withdraw the small subsidy paid by the Overseas Development Administration which enables British scientific, medical and other textbooks to be exported to students in the poorest countries of the world at low prices.

British publishers support the organisation called the English Language Book Scheme, which distributes textbooks particularly to the Indian sub-continent, Africa and the less developed parts of the Far and Middle East. The publishers, as their contribution to the scheme, forgo the greater part of their profit



Dr Thomas Stuttard

the Government contributes £1.5 million a year, including £250,000 for administration costs.

Last year more than 450 titles were sold at a third of their price in Britain. The scheme is welcomed in the developing world where countries do not have a well-

established scientific publishing industry nor as yet the university research facilities needed to support one. It is aid that encourages countries to develop their own resources, but at the same time its influence on the people who will become the scientific leaders in their countries

must be to the long-term benefit of British interests as it enhances our prestige in countries that still have links with us through a shared language.

The British pharmaceutical industry is one of the strongest in the world, a strength which is in part allied to British medical education, but it is in other branches of science such as engineering and agriculture that the low-price book scheme is more likely to produce financial returns. Even so, the withdrawal of the scheme is particularly regretted by doctors.

The problems facing the

health service, as well as fee increases, are already encouraging more English-speaking overseas students to seek their postgraduate education in the United States and Australia. British medical education, once considered the most desirable in the world, may have to share, or even surrender, this accolade to America.

The low-price book scheme, however, has enabled undergraduate and postgraduate students overseas to benefit from this tradition of great medical education and, as the Prime Minister would advocate, to utilise a British asset.



## Promise of better access to buses, coaches and trains

# Ministers make U-turn on help for the disabled

**BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER**

**THE** Government announced a series of U-turns on the disability Bill last night, including a move to ensure greater access of public transport to the disabled.

**Bowing to cross-party pressure in the Commons, William Hague, the Minister for the Disabled, announced that the Government was ready to legislate to improve access to coaches, buses, and trains.**

As Tory backbench MPs queued up to complain in the report stage debate of the Disability Discrimination Bill, Mr Hague astonished them with a package of changes. The Bill will now also help healthy people who have a history of substantial disability. "This will be of benefit particularly to people who have recovered completely from a mental illness but who find their job prospects blighted by groundless fears of a relapse," Mr Hague said.

The Government also said that it would act to help students with disabilities and

learning difficulties to gain access to schools and colleges. It would look at raising awareness of their needs and providing colleges with incentives to enrol more of them.

"The embodiment of these powers in legislation through this Bill will represent another major step in demonstrating that the Government's policies for tackling discrimination are comprehensive," Mr Hague

The major concessions come in the wake of bitter acrimony over disabled rights in the Commons in recent years. The Government hopes that they will go some way to appeasing six million disabled people and the vocal pressure groups that have lobbied Downing Street in protest at what they saw as obstruction of anti-discrimination moves.

Mr Hague's announcement came just after Sir John Hannam (C, Exeter) told the House that the exclusion of public transport vehicles increased disabled people's

"sense of isolation and separation".

Tom Clarke, for Labour, said that it was "patently absurd" to improve access to railway and bus stations but deny disabled people their right to catch a train or bus. He said that disabled people felt trapped and he urged ministers to offer them a "passport to travel" through properly adapted vehicles.

Mr Hague said he could not accept cross-party amendments to the Bill aimed at improving access to public transport but he accepted the spirit of their demands. Government changes would be brought about after discussions with transport operators and in a timescale yet to be set. But it was in no one's interest to bring forward measures that would jeopardise the viability of public transport operators. "For systems like the London Underground, for example, we are certainly talking very long term," he said.

Dr Roger Berrill, chairman

Kingswood), whose back-bench civil rights Bill was wrecked by ministers, told Mr Hague: "I hope you will recognise that a number of MPs and many people outside have been arguing for precisely this for a considerable period of time."

Liz Lynne (Lib Dem, Rochdale) voiced concern that people with HIV, the virus that can lead to aids, were not provided for in the Bill. She said that increased use of testing could lead to discrimination. Similarly, a test that showed susceptibility to Alzheimer's disease could lead to employment difficulties.

The Bill makes it unlawful to discriminate in connection with employment and provision of goods, facilities and services, and sets up a National Disability Council to advise ministers. But the Opposition still want broader measures including a Disability Rights Commission with power to vigorously enforce anti-discrimination laws.



since then, notably during the regimes of Harold Wilson and Margaret Thatcher.

The latest fracas is typical.

A government in trouble feels it is being treated unfairly, as do its supporters, when its leaders face tough interviews. Partisans of all parties regard any critical questioning as evidence of bias since their leaders are always in the right. Protests are partly an expression of frustration, are partly intended to satisfy the more Neanderthal of supporters (as columns and letters over the past two days have shown), and partly to put pressure on the broadcasters.

The list of ministerial complaints sounds like whingeing. Politicians are hardly an oppressed group. Some of their points are trivial, others are ridiculous and a few partially justified. But the net effect is to force the BBC onto the defensive. One veteran campaigner of such exchanges reckons that, in the short term, the Government will not be helped, except among its own supporters. In the long term, the broadcasters do react, and in some cases overcompensate, by being hypersensitive about Tory complaints and giving the Opposition a tougher ride. But even the narrow electoral benefits are limited. Politicians and the media treat each other too seriously. Of course, on television matters, but voters neither notice nor care about the points which so infuriate the politicians.

From my own experience of not only the BBC but also ITN and Sky, charges of party bias are misplaced, though broadcasters are, like everyone else, affected by the mood of the time. Interviewers such as John Humphrys, James Naughtie and Jeremy Paxman are journalists first, and always. Their styles are not always to the taste of those being interviewed but that does not alter their impartiality.

The real question is about how the political agenda is set. The Westminster focus of

coverage works against the Government by highlighting unimportant tactical manoeuvres and minor revolts (which usually fizzle out). Opposition claims (the point of Michael Howard's protest yesterday about the use of crime figures on *Today*). It is inherently more difficult for ministers since they have actions and records to defend, while opposition parties can only criticise and propose. Labour is still at the stage of talking about general themes which are harder to analyse. Tony Blair and his colleagues will have a much harder time later in the year when the party starts to produce more detailed proposals.

**A** more subtle argument has been put forward by Douglas Hurd. He does not believe there is bias against any particular government, but rather there is a bias against achievement, against people who are trying to do things and in favour of criticism. Mr Hurd has a point in this mandarin way, even though the role of the media is, and has always been, to be the grit in the public debate, to challenge and question the powers that be.

The problem now, as Mr Hurd has also argued, is the influence of pressure and lobbying groups. Their demands too often go unchallenged and are treated as legitimate because the group they claim to represent appears worthy. British politics used to be dominated by producer interests. Now, it is the politics of rights and entitlements. If there is a bias in coverage it is in this direction rather than in favour of one party or another.

**PETER RIDDELL**

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

**A LIBERAL** Democrat MP's call for electoral co-operation with other parties in creating "Tory-free zones" has spiced up the debate about possible links with Labour.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, is urging senior colleagues to draw up plans on how they might work with Labour if it wins the next general election. But pressure for a declaration of support for Labour has increased after Alex Carlile, leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, called for opposition election candidates to fight with the common purpose of driving the Tories out.

Mr Ashdown says that the Liberal Democrats will make clear before the election how closely they will work with Labour but denies that the party is abandoning its equidistance between Labour and the Tories.

He indicated yesterday that he would not commit his party to links with Labour until Tony Blair spelt out more detailed policies. "I have made it clear to colleagues that this is an issue which we will have to have a clear answer to, but we can't until we have a clear answer about where the other

parties stand," he said. "You can't define your position in relation to a vacuum."

Close colleagues say that he might tell party activists in September that he is prepared to pledge support for Labour in the event of a hung Parliament. But this could depend on a Labour commitment to electoral reform.

Mr Carlisle outlined his plan in a speech at the weekend. He told Liberal Democrat activists that an agreement with other parties could ensure that the five Tories in Wales lost their seats.

Although he ruled out a pact specifically with Labour as "unrealistic" his comments have been supported by other senior MPs who are pressing Mr Ashdown to make the party's stance clear well before an election. Mr Carille's plan for Wales could also apply to Scotland, where the Tories' low poll rating has raised hopes that they might lose almost all their ten seats.

Liberal Democrats who favour closer links with Labour also pointed yesterday to the South West, Manchester and inner London as areas where Tory MPs could be wiped out by tactical voting.

## IN PARLIAMENT

**YESTERDAY** in the Commons: ques-  
tions to defence ministers and the  
Prime Minister were followed by a  
debate on the remaining stages of the  
Disability Discrimination Bill. In the  
Lords: debates on Health Authorities  
Bill, Railtrack (Rateable Values) (Scot-  
land) Order, and the Electricity Supply  
Industry (Rateable Values) (Amend-  
ment) Order.

**TODAY** in the Commons: From 14.01, backbench debates on domestic violence, the future of Guy's Hospital, the West Coast main line and climate change. From 2.30pm, questions to Foreign Office ministers and a Labour debate on "the impact of education cuts on standards and opportunity". In the Lords: debates on the economy and on the Human Rights Bill.

Everything  
that flies  
is lighter  
than air.



## Brussels modifies stance and rejects imposition of trade sanctions against Ottawa

## Canada displays 'illegal' nets from Spanish trawler

BY JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK, EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

CANADA presented nets from a seized Spanish trawler yesterday as proof that Spanish fishermen, with backing from the European Union, were using illegal equipment to catch underage fish off Newfoundland.

Two nets from the *Estai*, the Spanish vessel whose seizure in international waters on March 9 touched off the current "fish war", were put on display to the press on a barge in the river in front of the New York headquarters of the United Nations.

Canadian fisheries officers, who are holding the nets as court evidence against the *Estai*, alleged that the mesh was much smaller than the 130mm (5¼ ins) limit set by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO).

Thrusting a Nafo-approved device through the holes, the officers demonstrated that the main net has a mesh of 4in and that an illegal second net, or "liner", found inside the main net measured just 3in.

The clear evidence of illegal fishing practices must throw continued EU support for Spanish fishermen into doubt.

Canada has accused Spain of plundering the Greenland halibut stocks that cross in and out of Canada's 200-mile limit and has placed a moratorium on halibut fishing in its own waters.

Displaying the nets, Brian Tobin, the Canadian Fisheries Minister, said: "There ought not to be a liner. A liner is strictly prohibited. There ought not to be a second net at all."

A "liner" is placed inside the toe, or "cod end", of the main net to stop fish escaping.

Canadian officials provided journalists with samples of juvenile Greenland halibut recovered from the vessel and a banned catch of American plaice they said had been found in a secret hold.

In Brussels, meanwhile, Britain shifted to a more neutral position in the dispute, making clear that it would not

support the use of trade sanctions against Canada, which Spain has asked for.

In the Commons, William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, confirmed the shift in the British position, saying the Government had a great deal of sympathy for Canada, but he also warned Ottawa not to spoil a good case by resorting to misguided tactics.

Mr Waldegrave urged all sides to "cool the rhetoric". He said: "We have a very great deal of sympathy with the Canadians. We and other nations know there are questions about Spanish obedience to the rules. But cutting nets off big trawlers is dangerous and it is illegal."

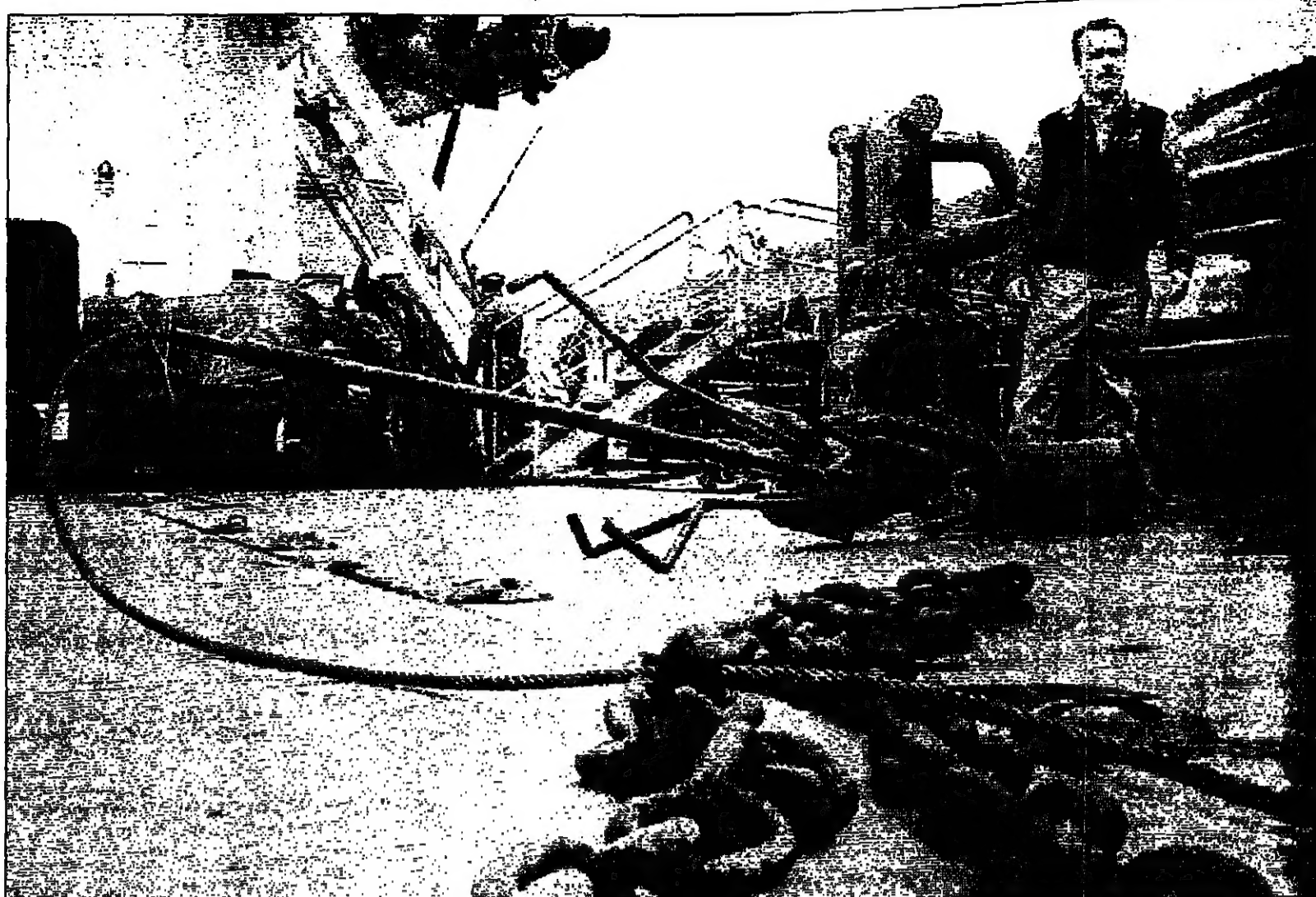
The Canadian Navy can muster six Halifax-class frigates which carry British-built Sea King helicopters and are able to fire American Harpoon and British Sea Sparrow surface-to-air missiles.

Mr Waldegrave added that the Government hoped to be able to use its unique position as a member of the EU and the Commonwealth to "broker a resolution".

Javier Solana, the Spanish Foreign Minister, said Spain "will not tolerate another seizure". Yesterday all government exchanges with Canada were suspended and visas reintroduced for Canadian citizens wishing to visit Spain.

In The Hague, Spain filed a case against Canada in the International Court of Justice but gave no details. The court is the only international legal arena for deciding disputes between states, but cases proceed slowly and judgments usually take years.

Matthew Parris, page 2



A net cutter, which can be towed across the cables connecting nets to trawlers, lies ready on the deck of a Canadian Coast Guard vessel

## Feuds multiply as boats vie for share of depleted stocks

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE fishing feud between the European Union and Canada over Greenland halibut is part of a wider global conflict in which increasing numbers of ever-more efficient boats are chasing fewer fish.

Over the past two years, British and French nets have been slashed by Spanish fishermen in the Bay of Biscay. Japanese fishermen have been shot at by a Russian gunboat, an Icelandic trawler and Norwegian coastguard

vessels have exchanged gunfire, and Indonesia has impounded Taiwanese vessels.

A report this month by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation for an international fishing conference in Rome estimated that 70 per cent of the world's marine stocks were "fully or heavily exploited, over-exploited, depleted or slowly recovering".

Under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea,

coastal states were allowed to push the boundaries of their national waters out from 12 miles to 200 miles offshore. Three-quarters of the world's fish now lie within these national waters.

The skirmishing off Newfoundland is a particularly acute example of a problem involving fish which either migrate from one national zone to another or between a national zone and the adjacent seas.

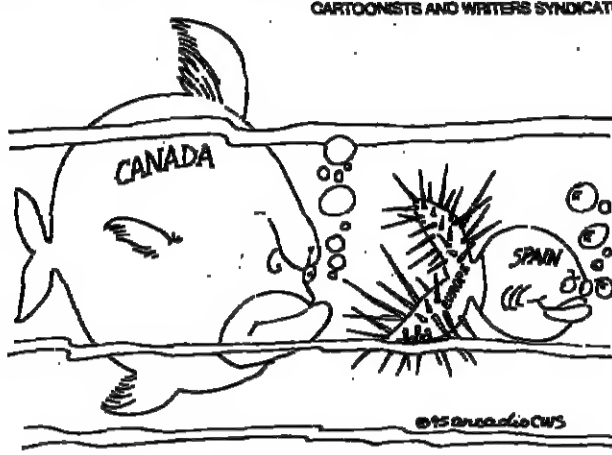
## British disdainful of disputed halibut

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

GREENLAND halibut is scarcely more common on the fishmonger's slab in Britain than fillet of leviathan and, according to the most refined palate, hardly any tastier unless spread with mustard.

The fish at the centre of the dispute between Spanish and Canadian fishermen is better known in Britain as mock halibut as it is not the same expensive species known and loved on this side of the Atlantic. Last year British fishermen caught a mere 977 tonnes worth £930,874 from

total landings of 154,562 tonnes valued at £149,212,569. On rare occasions Greenland halibut can be found in the shops at about £2.50 per lb, compared to up to £10 per lb for best Scottish halibut steaks. Stephen Hatt, a fishmonger in Islington, north London, said: "We don't stock it and I have never been asked to get any in. It's not regarded over here as one of the top quality lines of fish and that's why the term 'mock' is used. It's inferior in flavour and texture."

The fishing dispute between Canada and Spain as seen by Arcadio in the Costa Rican paper *La Nación*

## Gucci investigators link shooting to debt repayments

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

MILAN police sought yesterday to unravel the murky financial affairs of Maurizio Gucci, shot dead in an ambush. Investigators believe that Monday's murder may have been linked to irregularities surrounding repayment of debts Signor Gucci contracted using shares in the fashion empire as collateral.

Police said they would travel to Switzerland to examine bank accounts held by Signor Gucci, who lived in St Moritz. State-run Italian television said investigators believe he obtained up to \$400 million (£238

million) for selling his Gucci shares in September 1993 to the Arab investment bank Investcorp, but that he had only declared \$200 million.

Signor Gucci reportedly sold his shareholding after raising 30 million Swiss francs (about £12 million) to pay off debts to Citibank and Credit Suisse he ran up using the shares as security. Asked at the time where he obtained the Swiss francs, Signor Gucci joked: "I found them under the floor of my home in St Moritz."

Police sources speculate that non-repayment of debts may have made the Gucci scion dangerous enemies, while the *Il Messaggero* newspaper suggested that his death could be

linked to the lucrative global trade in counterfeiting Gucci products.

Police yesterday issued an identikit picture of the hitman, an elegantly dressed, heavily built man in his forties who shot Signor Gucci outside the office of his Milanese consultancy firm. Officers based the impression on descriptions given by a woman passer-by and by Giuseppe Ornatore, 51, the porter at Signor Gucci's office building, who was shot and wounded while trying to tackle the gunman.

Signor Gucci evidently was not in fear of his life as he had walked from his Milan flat to the office unaccompanied. Only 18 months ago he felt it necessary to travel everywhere with

three bodyguards as negotiations for him to seed his stake in the Gucci empire reached fever pitch.

According to the *Corriere della Sera* of Milan, Signor Gucci had decided to stay outside the fashion world, turning his back on the feuds that destroyed the Gucci clan, and planned to invest in hotels, casinos and possibly a golf course.

Police said they were considering all possible motives. Signor Gucci was divorced from his wife Patricia, by whom he had two daughters. "I am sorry from a human point of view, but personally I can't say the same thing," she commented on learning of his death. He had moved

in with his new companion, Paola Colombo. The world of Milan fashion has been the focus of inquiries by the authorities over the past year. In September, Giorgio Armani and Gianfranco Ferré admitted paying bribes to tax inspectors. Investigators believe these were only the tip of an iceberg of corruption and money laundering by Milan fashion firms.

Ex-auditors held: Vito Lattanzio and Rino Formica, both former ministers, and tax police officials, a mayor, a former magistrate and Mafia suspects, were among 35 people arrested in an anti-corruption inquiry in southern Italy, police said. (Reuters)



Gucci: sold his shares

## US-Korea nuclear impasse

Washington: The tortuous nuclear negotiations between America and North Korea reached a new level of melodrama yesterday with the two sides abruptly breaking off talks in Berlin two days early (see Brodie writes).

They failed to reach agreement on the key issue of South Korea's role in supplying North Korea with new reactors to replace existing ones that were suspected of producing plutonium for nuclear weapons.

## Israeli ties

Jerusalem: Morocco has opened a liaison office in Tel Aviv, making it only the third Arab country after Egypt and Jordan to establish ties with Israel since the state was founded in 1948.

## Robberies soar

New York: The rate of bank robberies in America is soaring, suggesting a new level of audacity and stupidity on the part of the average crook. FBI figures show the number has doubled in 9,000 annually.

## Ballerina exits

Moscow: Nadezhda Pavlova, the principal ballerina with the Bolshoi ballet company, quit a day after the theatre's chief conductor, Aleksandr Lazarev, resigned in a row over new executives. (Reuters)

## Hint of freedom

Rangoon: A senior Burmese official said the Government would not hold Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, under house arrest permanently and hinted she might be free by July. (Reuters)

## Water polluted

Tunis: Algerian authorities cut off water supplies to Algiers and surrounding areas after a reservoir became contaminated with leakage of oil or gas, the official APS news agency reported. (Reuters)

## Job grapevine

Toulouse: Wine growers are to use job-hunting stickers on one million bottles of wine from southwestern France, each giving personal details of one of 1,000 unemployed young people. (Reuters)

## THE TIMES Don't forget your passport ... you could be flying to Jordan soon



Wonders of a lost age: ancient cave dwellings in Jordan

ENTER today's Don't Forget Your Passport competition and you could be taking off soon for a Middle East adventure.

A six-day journey will take our winner to Petra, which was carved out of pink sandstone 2,000 years ago by the Nabataean Arabs.

Then the group will visit the ancient city of Jerash and see Mount Nebo, where Moses gazed upon the Promised Land, and ride across the desert landscape of Wadi Rum.

Even if you do not win, Cox & Kings will take you to Jordan for as little as £855 with single supplements from £195. Prices include scheduled flights, four-star twinshare accommodation, sightseeing and half board. For more details, ring Cox & Kings on 0171 873 5005.

Tomorrow: the chance to win a short break in Rome

## HOW TO ENTER

The winner of yesterday's "Don't Forget Your Passport" competition was Mr. John Montague from Walsingham, Norfolk, who is featured.

For a chance to win the Jordan holiday for two, ring 0839 44 45 16 before 3pm with the answers to the following questions. We will contact you later today if you are the winner.

1) From where did Moses see the Promised Land?  
2) What is the capital city of Jordan?

The winner will be drawn from all correct answers received by the time the lines close. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply. Calls cost 3p a minute, plus VAT and 4p at all other times.

Cox &amp; Kings

## Satellite launched for Israel

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN PLESTYK

A CONVERTED Russian strategic missile made space history at this northern Russian launch site yesterday when it deployed civilian satellites instead of the nuclear warheads for which it was designed.

In one of the most ambitious projects in Russia's troubled efforts to convert its vast military complex to commercial use, an adapted SS-25 missile carried Israeli, Mexican and Russian satellites into orbit. Russian and Israeli officials said the launch of their first joint space venture had gone off smoothly but later reported that they had yet to receive signals from the spacecraft, the *Gurwin-1*.

Nevertheless, Major-General Nikolai Ukhrenenko, commander of the military Cosmodrome which, for more than 30 years, was one of Russia's most sensitive and heavily defended sites, said the initiative marked an important turning point. "This is a great start to what we hope is a new beginning for our space industry," he said.

The satellite itself, due to pass over Israel every two hours and stay in orbit for three years, was developed and built in part by Jewish immigrants who were barred for years from leaving the Soviet Union. One of them, Anatoli Wolfovsky, an electrical engineer who was at the launch, said: "When I emigrated to Israel from Russia three years ago, I never thought I would be back here to see an Israeli satellite launched by a Russian missile. I am glad to say relations between the two countries have really changed."

## United Nations climate conference in Berlin

## Oil-producing countries agree to set aside environmental veto

BY JOHN HOLLAND IN BERLIN AND NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE United Nations climate conference opened in Berlin yesterday in a downbeat mood, but with one small success — an apparent agreement by oil-producing countries not to block proceedings by insisting that all decisions are taken by consensus.

More than 1,000 delegates from 130 countries have gathered, though their expectations are not high. The goal of the 11-day conference is to establish a basis for cutting the output of "global warming" gases to defer the threat of climate change.

"The peoples of the world expect us to take the decisions necessary to protect them from the harm that threatens," Angela Merkel, the German Environment Minister and elected conference president, told the opening session. "We carry responsibility not only for today's generation but also for those of the future."

Before the conference, Frau Merkel had achieved agreement with the Saudi Arabian delegation that the oil producers would set aside their insistence that voting should be by consensus, rather than majority. Consensus decision-making, often followed by UN bodies, would have given the oil producers an effective veto. Critics claim that this first follow-up meeting to the 1992 Rio Earth Summit is untimely, poorly planned, and lacks political will from the industrialised countries, including the hosts, who produce the bulk of carbon dioxide emissions. The debate

is expected to centre on two issues: whether the developed countries are prepared to set further emission targets for the period beyond 2000, and whether a formula can be found to allow the developed countries to offset some emissions by helping developing countries.

Frau Merkel said yesterday she had the impression that delegations were willing to compromise, but admitted that the voting issue had been deferred. She said she would try to broker a settlement by the weekend, but showed no enthusiasm for the suggestion that the oil producers might be given a seat on the conference board in exchange for a more conciliatory attitude.

She was uncompromising

about the consequences of failure. "If we don't take action, we must expect grave and irreversible consequences: a rise in sea levels, a shift in climate and vegetation zones, and a deterioration in food production and world nutrition are only a few examples. ... if we are serious about long-term change we will not be able to avoid radical changes in our pattern of consumption and production and in our lifestyle."

Adding to the air of despair, a Norwegian study yesterday reported that an area of ice twice the size of Norway had melted in the Arctic icecap, and an alliance of 36 island states brought forward a resolution declaring that without binding cuts in carbon dioxide

emissions they faced being swamped by rising sea levels. The conference is also being lobbied by industrial groups and by the Global Climate Coalition, which argues that global warming has yet to be proved and that steps to cut carbon emissions would cost billions of dollars and tens of thousands of jobs.

Christopher Flavin, an analyst from the Washington-based environmental group World Watch Institute, said: "The real story of this conference is going to be to bring to world attention that government rhetoric is far ahead of policy and that fossil fuel interests at the corporate level and in some Middle Eastern countries are really disrupting these negotiations."

## FACTFILE

THE United Nations climate conference in Berlin is the first follow-up to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, which produced the *Framework Convention on Climate Change* (John Holland writes).

The Berlin conference is intended to find ways of implementing the Rio treaty and considering means of strengthening it. The conference's aims include dealing with the results of rising carbon dioxide emissions, leading to the melting of polar glaciers, which threatens to cause flooding of low-lying coastal areas and islands around the world.

An alliance of 36 island countries wants to make binding a 20 per cent cut in carbon dioxide emissions by industrialised countries by 2005, and the reduction of those levels to 1990 figures by the end of the century. Resistance to these measures is likely to come from emerging economies in Asia and Latin America, which are rapidly increasing their CO<sub>2</sub> output.

Countries such as America, Japan and Germany either have refused any binding cuts in emissions or in Germany's case, where the Green movement is strongest, tried to water them down.



Merkel: "Responsibility to future generations"

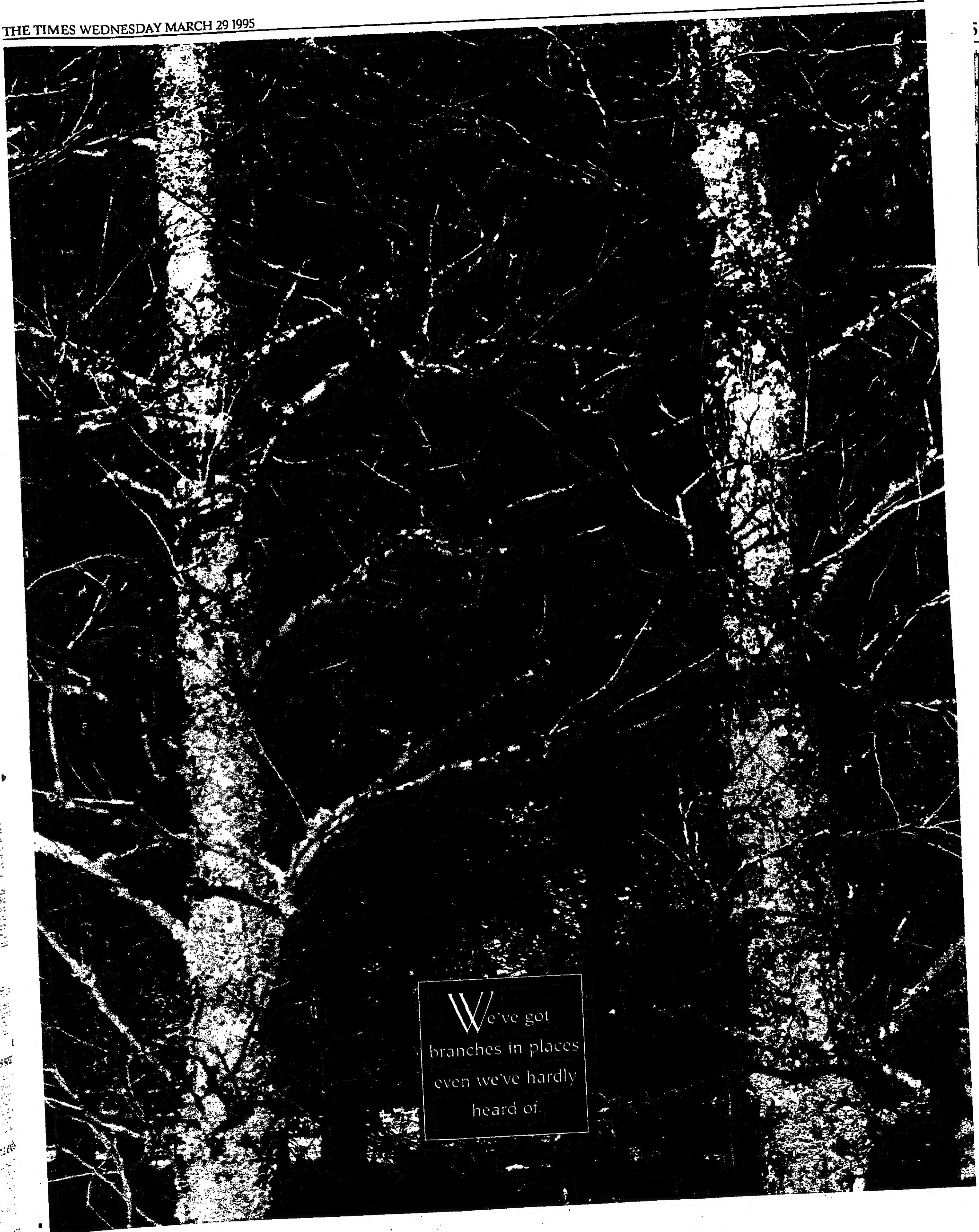


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## Britain struggles to influence debate despite slowing of federalist momentum

## Ambassadors fire first shots of battle to reshape Europe

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE long war to reshape Europe's constitution has begun. Fifteen EU ambassadors this week squared up for the first skirmish.

The official launch of an 18-strong "reflection group" of national ministers and MEPs to prepare a conference of EU governments in 1996 is still more than three months away. The ambassadors were debating the first of many hundreds of pieces of paper which will be haggled over, torn up, redrafted and eventually passed to the reflection group.

While this traditional game of 15-dimensional chess is being played out, elections are redrawing Europe's political map. In May, France is to choose a new President: polls favour Jacques Chirac, an old-fashioned Gaullist lukewarm

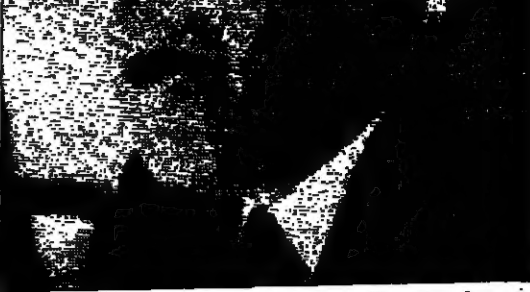
about the EU. Helmut Kohl's coalition in Germany faces two regional elections which threaten his Government. Italy, Spain and Belgium will have new governments by the end of the year.

Governments in France, The Netherlands and Italy — which were sure in 1991 that the moment had come for a leap towards a federal Europe — have lost that certainty. Four years ago you would not have heard an EU ambassador from a loyal federalist country describe plans for the European Commission to become the embryo Government of Europe as "pure crap".

British attempts to move the discussion away from debates about classical federalism register modest success. The word has almost vanished

from public debate. The momentum behind ideas for a "hard core" of states forging ahead to economic and political union has slackened. The Franco-German partnership is chilled by the prospect of a Chirac presidency and by an unresolved deadlock over the nation state. Much of the German political class argues that the nation state is being overtaken by events too big for its structures to handle. Their French and British equivalents want to adapt the State while keeping it as Europe's basic building block. In an unguarded aside recently, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, predicted that 1996 would not witness a Franco-German blitzkrieg.

The dialogue across the Rhine is stumbling on the



Members of the European "reflection group", from left, Britain's David Davis, Elisabeth Guigou of France, and Spain's Marcelino Oreja

deepest problem of all: there is no real agreement about what the EU is for. Progress towards a superpower federation? Peace and stability in Western or Eastern Europe, or both? A diplomatic bridge between Russia and America? A prosperous free trade zone? All these ideas are in play.

The big question is: are we

going to have an open-ended debate over ends before we plunge into the mechanics of ends?," an EU diplomat said. "If we just talk about institutional machinery, the UK will have a hard time."

Mr Major's partners have acknowledging any British influence on events and the Government is making heavy

weather on many issues. The timetable for the single currency looms over governments. Irrespective of how much or how little the 1996 talks settle, a small core of states will probably be qualified for a monetary union in 1999 and can press ahead regardless of the rest. Two buzz words have come to the

fore: "efficiency" and "democracy". Both have federalist solutions. To be "efficient" with 20 or so members, the argument runs, the EU will have to take most of its decisions by majority vote. To be democratic and "transparent", such a Union will have to be much more accountable to the directly elected MEPs of

the European Parliament. If this argument deadlocks because of reservations by Britain or other reluctant countries, German and a handful of allies will ask for the treaty to allow a "hard core" to press ahead. Mr Major's strategy appears to be a search for fudges which avoid such a fracture.

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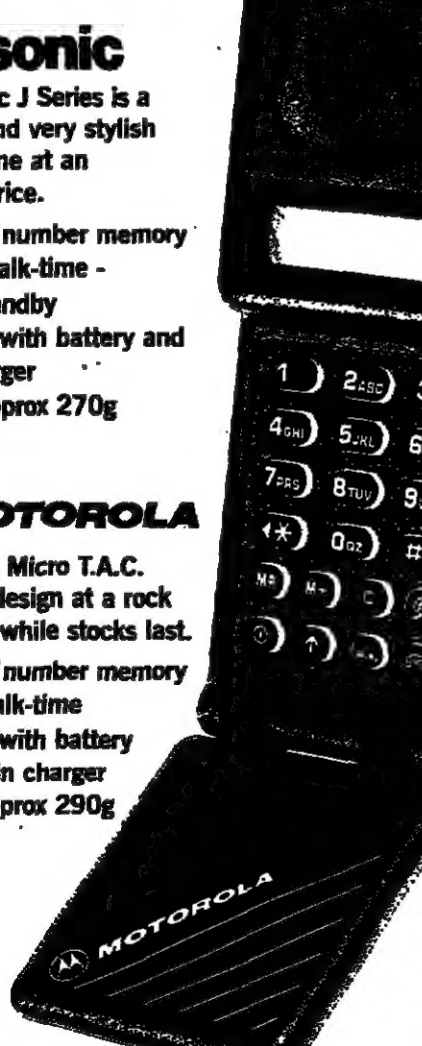
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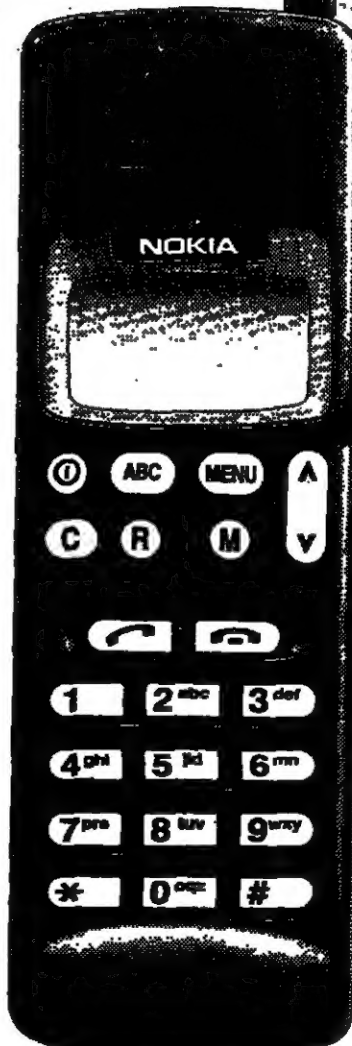
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## EU players vie to win over sceptical public

BY GEORGE BROCK

Most of the European Union's 15 governments, the Commission and Parliament have not yet completed their manifestos for the EU's "reflection group" on the 1996 conference on Maastricht, let alone for the real negotiations. Governments and the EU institutions are floating ideas, aware that the secrecy of the 1991 Maastricht negotiation stoked voters' resentment against the treaty; the next negotiation will be more open to public scrutiny.

Represented on the reflection group by David Davis, a Euro-sceptical Foreign Office junior minister. Whitehall officials are clocking up thousands of air miles, testing ideas among partners. A memorandum about defence went down like a lead balloon with the Commission, which would like the European Union to swallow the renegade Western European Union, while Britain would like the two bodies to be kept separate.

Ideas about giving national parliaments powers to limit EU court decisions, arbitrate over subsidiarity, or vote on the Commission's plans are not attracting support. Stripping the European Court of Justice of some powers is not proving popular either. Whitehall is very keen to raise issues of cutting EU spending before East European states join, but this is not strictly a treaty revision.

## GERMANY

Infighting is continuing within the federal Government. Plans for an EU "hard core", pushed last year by Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrat associates, Karl Lamers and Wolfgang Schäuble, have faded and follow-up papers have been shelved. Bonn's reflection group member is Werner Hoyer, the European Affairs Minister, a conciliator. Pressure to abolish inter-governmental decision-making segments of Maastricht has slackened. But Herr Kohl is still committed to abolishing national vetoes "little by little". The Bonn coalition is committed to giving more powers to the European Parliament.

## COMMISSION

Jacques Santer, the President, emphasises results and not theology; he appeared before the Parliament recently and said that the Commission would not want to extend its powers. Some of his advisers want to push the EU towards a joint defence policy while others want to avoid trench warfare with national governments who regard it as a touchstone of sovereignty. The reflection group representative will be Marcelino Oreja, the Spanish Commissioner, a former MEP and author of a draft constitution for a federal Europe. Señor Oreja's plans will be voted on in May but are likely to emphasise powers for the Parliament and demand better results on foreign policy and immigration.

## PARLIAMENT

Two MEPs are members of the reflection group for the first time. Elmar Brok, a German Christian Democrat, and Elisabeth Guigou, a French Socialist. Herr Brok is well connected in Bonn and pushing a traditional German integration agenda. He is strong on co-ordinated measures against cross-border crime, a problem that he thinks too vast for nation states to tackle individually. Mme Guigou's position inside the Parliament's Socialist bloc is weaker since French Socialists lost heavily in the last Euro-election. Both these MEPs will report frequently to their colleagues, making debate more open than ever.

## FRANCE

If Jacques Chirac becomes President, he has to balance Europhile and Euro-sceptic wings of the French Right. Staying close to Germany remains a priority. A proposal by French MPs to give the European Parliament a second chamber of national MPs flopped. France wants the EU to elect a minister as its president for three years at a time. It is firmly committed to a single currency and likely to remain so, and close to Britain on learning defence lessons of Bosnia. Its reflection group representative is not yet named. The French usually negotiate with a flexible strategy based on a small set of key demands, and are always ready to compromise with Germany in the end.



Chirac: staying close to Germany a priority

## BELGIUM

Belgium backs traditional federalist solutions, but will be prepared to allow large states to boost their voting power if they can hold on to other privileges that small states won in the 1950s. Luxembourg lays heavier emphasis on free trade and deregulation. The Dutch were bruised by rejection of the federalist draft treaty last time round and public opinion is cooling off. Europe because The Netherlands has become a large net contributor to the EU budget.

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# Chinese begin to whisper about nation's hidden horrors

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

IN 1918 Lu Xun, one of China's greatest modern writers, asked whether informing the Chinese about the nature of their country's tragedy would be like waking sleeping people in a burning house from which they cannot escape. The subject is just as painful today.

Are there secrets about the Communist Party, and the Chinese people, which the party keeps to itself and which even intellectuals prefer not to confront? Cannibalism is one of these secrets.

Eating people for ideological reasons happened during the Cultural Revolution of the late 1960s and early 1970s. The party knows about it, as do the relatives of the victims, but it has yet to be made public in China. In 1986 and in 1988, Zheng Yi, a journalist who now lives in America, wrote about photographs and

documents detailing the cannibalism. Zheng says: "I think thousands participated in the cannibalism and at least many hundreds were eaten. The party knows all about it." Ruan Ming, a former party official who lives in America, doubts whether making the Guangxi cannibalism public would have a good effect. "It would hurt the image of the State and would damage public morale."

Su Shaochi, the former Director of the party's Marxism-Leninism-Maoism Institute, and another exile in America, said: "The party depends on its ideology to deceive the masses. Once they see through the whole thing, they will no longer believe the party."

China's leaders rarely appear in public, preferring, like the emperors, to rule "from behind the screen". Even Mao Tse-tung's writ-

**■ The Communist Party in Peking has for years kept secret famines, massacres and cannibalism, helped by the public's conflicting desires to know the truth and yet to keep painful memories buried**

ings and texts of his speeches are kept secret. They were regularly re-edited over a 30-year period to make it seem that he had always been wise about the present and the future. Stuart Schram, Mao's biographer, who pointed out this doctoring, says: "The party thinks of itself as almost a religious order, as sacrosanct... people outside have no business knowing how it operates."

Another disaster was the great famine of 1959-61 which was not revealed officially until 20 years later, although millions had suffered. The party admitted that 16

million people had died, but not that the famine resulted from Mao's disastrous agricultural policies.

Jasper Becker, Peking correspondent for the *South China Morning Post* who has studied the famine, said: "This was the worst famine in human history. Forty million died. In 1981 Mao was blamed for the Cultural Revolution but was exempted from blame for the famine. That would have left his whole legacy as amounting to nothing."

Probably no question hangs over the party more heavily than the way it crushed the Tiananmen Square

demonstrations. This "incident" remains taboo. The party insists that on June 3 and 4, 1989, it reacted to an attempt to overthrow the communist system, and that most of those killed were policemen and soldiers. Western reporters who were there think that possibly thousands of unarmed civilians were killed, but it is impossible to find out the truth from the authorities.

The question is whether the Chinese want to know how violently they acted when the party gave them the opportunity. This is an important distinction from the former Soviet Union, where the KGB did much of the dirty work. In China, as Jung Chang's memoir *Wild Swans* shows, it required little to get the Chinese to turn on each other, particularly if they thought they were proving themselves to be loyal Maoists and averting persecution. During the Cultural Revolution, school children crippled their teach-

ers and workers murdered their colleagues. There is no literature about cannibalism or about the full horrors of the famine. Nobody who did the killing, maiming, and persecuting has publicly confessed.

These are hard matters to confront. However, this is changing. George Orwell imagined a "memory hole" down which totalitarianism drop awkward facts and this remains in Peking, but the Chinese increasingly demand the restoration of a basic human right: the accurate memory of times past. Dai Qing, a journalist who investigates party history, says: "You should imagine living in a dark room with all the shades drawn. If one shade goes up — just a crack — the light that enters is suddenly very interesting."

The first of Jonathan Mirsky's two special reports, "Secrets", will be broadcast on BBC Radio 4's *The World Tonight* at 10pm tonight.

## Hurd tells Turkey incursion puts Euro ties at risk

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU

BRITAIN has warned Turkey that it must remove its troops from northern Iraq as soon as possible, or face a likely veto in the European Parliament of Turkey's proposed customs union with the EU.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, has written to Erdal Inonu, the new Foreign Minister, congratulating him on his appointment but making it clear that tolerance in Britain and NATO for Turkey's intervention is wearing thin. Mr Hurd's warning follows repeated messages in the past week that the operation must be short and sharp, and should not be directed against Kurdish civilians.

Up to 1,000 Turkish Kurds, mostly women and children, have fled the war zone for tented camps 60 miles deeper into Iraq, after allegations that Turkish forces had arrested civilians suspected of links with the separatist Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK).

The Turkish operation inside northern Iraq has failed to quell rebel activity at home. Officials said nine PKK guerrillas and four villagers were killed in two days of clashes across Turkey's troubled eastern and southeastern provinces. Abdullah Ocalan, the PKK leader, has been urging his fighters to launch raids inside Turkey to relieve pressure on those inside northern Iraq. Turkish officials claimed that the villagers, including

two children, were killed on Monday night when PKK guerrillas raided Gurmulu village in Sirnak province. Three guerrillas later died in clashes with troops. Four PKK fighters, including a woman, were reported killed in Tunceli province, where the PKK recently killed 18 Turkish soldiers in an ambush.

The clashes between Iraqi Kurds, which erupted on Monday, centred on the key city of Arbil, the seat of the region's paralysed Kurdish administration. Arbil, 100 miles south of the area now occupied by Turkish forces, is controlled by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), led by Jalal Talabani. His men claimed yesterday that they repulsed attacks by Massoud Barzani's rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), which surrounds the city.



Ciller: reassured allies operation would end soon

"At least 100 people have been killed on both sides since the KDP forces attacked eight PUK positions in and around Arbil on Monday morning," a PUK spokesman said. The casualty count suggested the inter-Kurdish clashes were far fiercer than those between the Turkish forces and the PKK separatists.

In Geneva, Swiss riot police used teargas and water cannon to disperse about 200 angry Turkish Kurd protesters who had broken into the grounds of the United Nations. They were protesting that the UN was not doing enough to protect Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq.

## Winnie Mandela stays silent over government dismissal

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

WINNIE MANDELA went to ground yesterday as the African National Congress and its allies rallied behind President Mandela and his decision to dismiss his estranged wife from the South African Government.

For once Mrs Mandela was silent in the face of criticism. After she was dismissed on Monday as Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, she declined to comment pending a press conference, which did not materialise.

She spent the day in her Cape Town flat and is expected to return to Johannesburg today. Alan Reynolds, her press secretary, who resigned out of loyalty, suggested she would consult her constituency

in the townships near Johannesburg before making any public statement.

Mr Mandela has declined to give reasons for firing his estranged wife but ANC sources said yesterday the President has recently promised tough measures against indiscipline and lawlessness and felt undermined by Mrs Mandela, who in recent weeks has openly criticised the Government.

Throughout yesterday, figures within the ANC and party allies came forward with messages of support for the President's action. This included the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the National Civics Association, a militant township-based movement usually loyal to

Mrs Mandela, and the South African Communist Party. So far the only dissenting voice has come from a small group of ANC Women's League supporters, who demonstrated outside ANC headquarters in Johannesburg. Even her prominent supporters have failed to back her publicly.

However, Mr Reynolds said that Mrs Mandela still has a strong support base as an MP. Women's League president, and treasurer of Contralesa, a traditional leaders' organisation, and she will build on that. "Winnie is someone you do not frighten. If she does cause trouble it will be within the party. She will take a firm stand on important issues and they will have to listen," he said.

## Hope of DNA clue to Dead Sea Scrolls

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

IN WHAT may be the most complex genetic jigsaw puzzle ever attempted, American and Israeli scientists are using DNA testing to try to piece together thousands of fragments from the Dead Sea Scrolls written on animal skins.

Some 15 of the scrolls were first discovered in 1947, but more than 10,000 tiny scraps of parchment, principally goat skin, remain unreconstructed and in various states of decay.

More than 2,000 years after they were written, in part or in whole by the Essenes, a Jewish sect, scientists have found that the shreds of parchment still contain enough residual genetic material for accurate DNA testing.

By identifying the skins of various species and even individual animals, eventually it should be possible to determine which fragment belongs where, according to Dr Scott Woodward of Brigham Young University in Utah, who has been working on the scroll

fragments with fellow scientists at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem for the past six months.

"We have already taken DNA from a little more than a dozen scroll fragments, and we have been able to identify the animals," Dr Woodward told *The New York Times*. He has previously extracted DNA material from Egyptian mummies, ancient mammoths and, most controversially last year, a bone fragment believed to be from an 80-million-year-old dinosaur.

Many of the remaining Dead Sea scroll fragments are so minute and the writing on them so faded that previous efforts at reconstruction have had to rely on guesswork. But with a genetic blueprint to show which scraps belong together, the task should become far easier, according to scholars.

Dr Herschel Shanks, of the *Biblical Archaeology Review*, described as "really marvellous" the possibility of using DNA testing to restore the scrolls. "This is a

jigsaw puzzle with 90 per cent of the pieces missing, and we would be grateful for any new information at all," he said.

But first Dr Woodward must separate the sheep from the goats. Initial tests showed that some of the scroll remnants may have come from gazelles, sheep or ibex, although subsequent analysis suggests that the parchment is mostly goatskin.

Christian scholars are particularly keen to reconstruct the remaining scraps since one small scroll fragment appears similar to a passage from the Gospel of Saint Mark and may indicate a link between the Essenes and early Christianity.

The Essenes lived near the Dead Sea between 200 BC and 100 AD and DNA testing may also help to establish whether the scrolls are the work of a single group of scribes or whether the documents found in the caves of Qumran represent the work of many writers, gradually collected over time.



Hillary Clinton and daughter Chelsea with two babies at the Delhi orphanage, run by Mother Teresa and her missionary sisters, which they visited yesterday

## First Lady gives beds to orphans

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

HILLARY CLINTON, the American First Lady, cuddled babies and sang with children at Mother Teresa's orphanage yesterday on the first day of a visit to India that she said would build ties of "friendship and partnership".

Mrs Clinton, who arrived from Pakistan on the second leg of a 12-day South Asian tour yesterday, spent 40 minutes at the orphanage and announced that she would donate about 20 beds to it. Her gesture will be welcome in a country that has become a victim of its own economic propaganda.

India faces devastating cuts in international aid for anti-poverty schemes because of the impression that it is becoming rich enough to fend for itself. There is clear evidence, however, that poverty has increased sharply since economic reforms began four years ago.

Thirty-five countries that contribute funds to a World Bank soft loans programme may decide to end or reduce billions of dollars in loans to India for projects aimed at primary education, clean water, basic healthcare and population control. Aid workers say that the impact of a cut-off or severe reduction would be devastating.

## Thatcher speaks out on colony

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

BARONESS Thatcher, obviously feeling that she can play a key role in easing Sino-British tensions, jumped feet first into the vexed Hong Kong problem yesterday when she met Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, in the exclusive Zhongnanhai leadership compound in Peking.

Possibly to the exasperation of the Foreign Office, which has been at pains to emphasise that Lady Thatcher's visit is private, she made it clear that the colony was in the forefront of her concerns.

"I'd like to start by talking about the remaining problems in Hong Kong," Lady Thatcher said after being introduced to Mr Li. "There are quite a number of things to be solved and two years [to the Chinese takeover] is not very long in which to solve them," she said only hours after her arrival. But in a strong voice that showed she had lost none of her verve, the former Prime Minister told Mr Li: "It is long enough as long as we get on with it."

## US seeks ban on Libya oil

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA is to press for an international embargo against Libyan oil as part of an intensified effort to force Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the country's leader, to surrender the two Libyan agents accused of carrying out the 1988 Lockerbie bombing.

Anthony Lake, President Clinton's National Security Adviser, told relatives of some of the 270 people who died in the destruction of Pan Am Flight 103 about the new American initiative at a White House meeting on Monday.

By way of response, Colonel Gaddafi said Libya would defy the ban on international air links by flying Muslim pilgrims to Saudi Arabia during the pilgrimage season starting next month. Libya would also reconsider its United Nations membership.

An oil embargo would quickly wreak havoc on Libya and would drive up world oil prices. Britain's support for the American call was distinctly qualified yesterday, with a spokesman saying that "we have to consider what is achievable".

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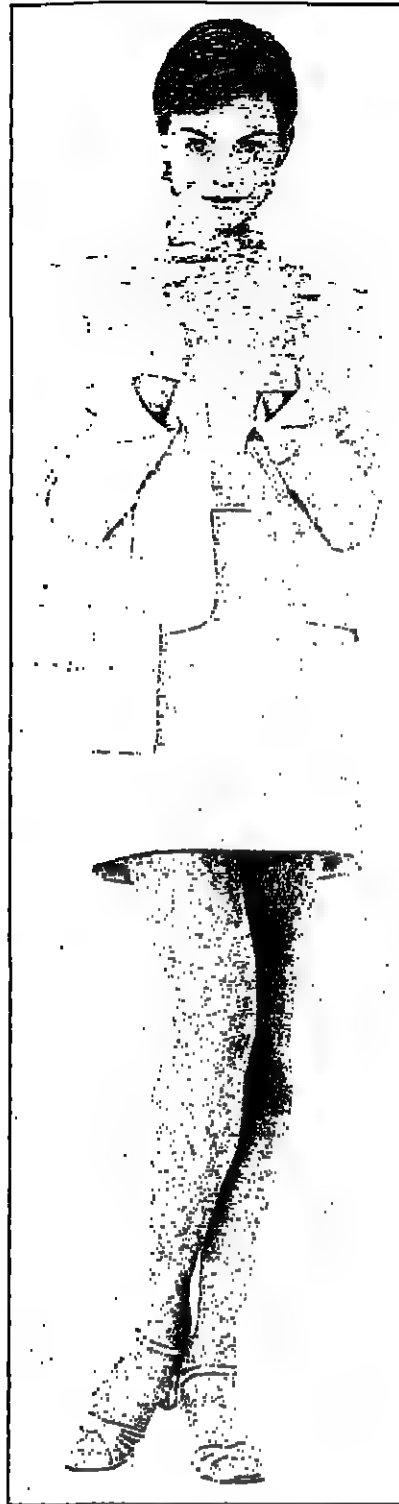
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# The timeless, tailored two-piece



Photographs by CHRIS DAWES  
Hair and make-up by Hina Dahi

When the spring-summer collections were unveiled last October, you could almost hear a collective sigh of relief from women the world over. There on the international catwalks were models dressed in seriously practical suits.

Not since the 1980s has the suit been more important, but where the previous powerhouse incarnation was sharp and strident, the new version is sleek and ladylike, taking its inspiration from the film-starry looks of Joan Crawford, Veronica Lake, even Celia Johnson, or the First Lady chic of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

This season designers offer not only a conventional two-piece (jacket and skirt) which follows the body's form, but also a combination of dress (invariably a slightly A-line, flared skirt) and jacket.

In keeping with the trend for all things feminine, suits are coloured with a palette of sweet-looking pastels, neutral silver greys and buff shades or milky whites.

The international designers voted the suit a unanimous hit. Gianni Versace exaggerated the hourglass silhouette with seriously tailored jackets featuring nipped-in waistlines,

while Calvin Klein offered the easiest option with an oversized knitted version.

Dolce & Gabbana, Genny, Anne Klein, Alberta Ferretti and Chanel favoured pink, parma violet and ice blue. Valentino, Miu Miu, Michael Kors and Ferragamo chose ivory, oyster and ice white. There are endless variations on the high street with some of the best by Marks & Spencer, Top Shop, Oasis and Kookai.

A curvy silhouette is a must. Shoulders should be defined, given a little lift with a pad, but be warned: it is no longer remotely fashionable to be mistaken for a member of the cast of *Dynasty*. Hemlines fall anywhere between thigh and calf, with the most directional length hovering around the knee.

Accessories reflect the prim and proper mood. Chic, open-toed strappy shoes and whip-lash thin belts, further emphasising the S-bend silhouette, are teamed with sensibly sized handbags (think of any female member of the Royal Family over 40).

With the forthcoming Season almost upon us, dress the look up but keep it simple — wear a hat, either small and silly or grand and dramatic, and Sunday-best white cotton and lace gloves.



Fashion  
IAIN R. WEBB

Above: Lilac satin-edged jacket, £395, matching skirt, £211, Caroline Charles, 170 New Bond Street, W1, 56-57 Beauchamp Place, SW3, Hoopers, Cheltenham and Wimslow, Manchester; white cotton gloves, £18, Cornelia James, department stores nationwide; patent bag, £165, diamond buckle shoes, £135, Russell & Bromley branches (0171-499 2621)

Above centre: Buff belted shift dress and matching jacket, to order from Catherine Walker for the Chelsea Design Company, 65 Sydney Street, SW3 (0171-362 4826); lace gloves, £15 approx, Cornelia James, as above; bow bag, £220, Anya Hindmarch, 91 Walton Street, SW3 (0171-584 7844); white strap shoes, £89.99, Russell & Bromley, as above; patent belt, £19.50, Otto Glanz, Harrods, SW1, Fenwicks, Bond Street, W1, House of Fraser stores

Above left: Pale blue belted jacket, £44.99, matching A-line skirt, £21.99, Top Shop stores nationwide (0171-291 2351); white cotton gloves, Cornelia James, as above; white patent gold handle handbag, £175, Russell & Bromley, as above; white patent shoes, £39.99, Cavella, 95-99 New Bond Street, W1, Selfridges, W1; Cosmetics For Legs tights, Factor 1, £2.50, Sock Shop branches nationwide

Far left: Ivory jacket, £50, matching shift dress, £35, Marks & Spencer, selected branches nationwide (0171-935 4422); white lace gloves, Cornelia James, as above; white patent double-clip bag, £55, Dollargrand, Way In, Harrods, SW1, Fenwicks, Newcastle (0171-794 3028)

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□ Pink and white check single-breasted jacket, £54.99, matching knee-length skirt, £24.99, House of Fraser, selected stores nationwide (0171-963 2000).

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□ Lime wool-mix single-breasted jacket, £79.99, matching knee-length skirt, £44.99, Oasis (as above).

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حكايا من الامم



Some of the best teachers dress scruffily for the simplest reasons, says Libby Purves — and their pupils are none the worse off for it

## Mrs Shephard's first cuckoo

HERE we go again. The first electoral cuckoo is calling. Ministers queue up to white about nasty interviewers (though Sir Bernard Ingham, bless his red choler face, says they should "stop bleating"). Labour shows off its hand-knitted crime figure. And to the horror of her fan club, Gillian Shephard starts sounding like a cartoon Tory lady.

There she was, making a perfectly sensible speech about how bad teachers should be sacked, when suddenly the worst kind of clichéd political silliness overcame this excellent woman. "There is no room", she said, "for flares, flowery smocks and hippy headbands any more... no room for incompetent teachers... we all look forward to a flare-free future."

This is hogwash. Wary, pathetic, datedly trendy hogwash: mid-1980s power-dressing codswallop. Like the catch-penny "training course" launched a few months ago to instruct teachers how to dress for success. You know: tailored jackets, navy skirts off the knee, shades of authoritative beige. The sort of thing a business-school graduate might wear when trying to get a job as an NHS Trust executive in charge of finding impressive ways to describe the closure of intensive care beds.

I know she was using the clothes as a

code for a certain kind of sloppiness: I too have met, back in 1973, teachers who defended their charges' illiteracy with lines like: "Books aren't everything — our kids come out as really rounded, nice people." Mrs Shephard is right to insist that teachers must teach children things. But clothes have nothing to do with it. Snappy dressing does not indicate teaching quality, or even create respect. Classes may giggle over a teacher's



baggy corduroy jacket or hippy smock; but what chiefly concerns the children — who are stuck with this person in a small room week after week — is whether he or she is interesting and helpful. They are not stupid. They know school is not a fashion show.

I suppose ideally teachers should not look too like hookers or bikers; but there is no need whatever for them to look like flight attendants. Some of the best ones I know are scruffy or ley

in their dress. There are reasons for this. Teachers are not paid like corporate executives. The buildings they work in are not ritzy. "Smart" tailored jackets are expensive; schools are full of chalk and felt pens and wobbly CDT projects and sculptures made out of wire. They are also full of children. Mucky things, children: if primary-school teachers wear hippy-looking crinkled cotton skirts which can be thrown in the washing machine and not ironed, it could have something to do with the prevalence of sticky hands and running noses some-

where around knee-level. If science teachers do not wear their best shirts to school, it could be because they know too much about dyes and corrosives and the way your cuff sticks out beyond your lab coat. If those whose work lies in tough inner-city schools like to wear the loose clothing and flat heels of the streetfighter, who is to blame them?

Let them teach, for God's sake, in whatever clothes they and their heads think fit. Who knows, Mrs Shephard: in the brave (and admittedly overdue) new world where bad teachers get sacked, you might even find to your surprise that some of the worst ones wear navy suits with pussycat Thatcher bows, and that some of the best look like Michael Foot. Or even Michael Jackson.

## The madness of British film-making

Ken Adam chose his words carefully and with economy when accepting his Oscar for best art direction on *The Madness of King George*. It was, he said, "an incredible adventure for me to work on this film". It must have penetrated the 4.45am fog of even the sleepiest British television viewer that every adventure has its hairy side: unlike almost all the other gushing winners, this solemn man with the Hollywood tan and the slight German accent was evidently not recalling the happiest days of his working life.

Things were hairy right up to the last moment. On stage sharing the glory with Adam was Carolyn Scott, his exhausted-looking set dresser, and few who worked on the film were happy with that. "There was a terrible row about that nomination," said one crew member.

Everyone knows Martin Chid that should have been up there receiving that Oscar with Ken: Ken Adam was the production designer but Martin was the art director, and he really did most of the work just as he did on *Frankenstein* and *Much Ado*. Carolyn wandered around calling everybody dahling, which I can assure you is not what we called her."

Even the producer, Stephen Evans, ever the English gent even when woken in the Los Angeles dawn after his big night, sighed deeply and said: "It should have been Martin's Oscar, and in our eyes it is." What happened, he explained, was that British and American film-makers use different job titles: in American terms Martin Chid had the wrong title, and under the ludicrous Oscar rules titles are what count.

So *Mad George* got the wrong Oscar. Best actor for Nigel Hawthorne's flawless performance would have been right, or best screenplay for Alan Bennett. Fine British actors and writers come cheapish, though. To get the award for best-looking picture on a budget of only \$8 million (around a quarter of the cost of a run-of-the-mill Hollywood feature) is quite an achievement. As Evans says: "There are some ironies in all this, because what we managed to put on the screen is what they call 'production value', and normally that's what costs the big money."

And that, of course, is where the tensions came in during shooting. The usual adjective for Ken Adam's work in films

**Margot Norman on the strange way King George was awarded its design Oscar**

and opera is "sumptuous". At 74 (but looking 60), the former wartime RAF pilot has a lot of mega-buck productions to his credit. He has houses in Malibu and Montpelier Square in Knightsbridge to show for his efforts. He must have spent many, many millions doing seven James Bond films, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and the movie that won him an Oscar 20 years ago, *Barry Lyndon*.

in expensive period hats too? Tomorrow? Oh, help, we'll see what we can do.

The locations themselves, fortunately, were as sumptuous as anyone could possibly wish. The audience is taken on a sort of Best of Britain's Heritage tour, from Oxford (with Convocation standing in for the House of Commons interior) to Eton (Westminster exterior), the Royal Naval College at Greenwich, the castles of Windsor and Arundel, the Double Cube Room at Wilton House (the Prince of Wales's lodging). Best of all was Broughton, where the King read *King Lear* among the sheep grazing the meadows beyond the formal garden: the most beautiful of houses, Alan Bennett called it, "almost a standard kit for an idyll". The props and costumes are good, but locations and lighting are what make this film look the part for the days when royalty was de luxe.

*The Madness of King George* almost missed being up for an Oscar at all. Nobody realised until they saw the over-long rough cut quite how creative all those tensions had been. It was then that Samuel Goldwyn understood he just might have put his money into a winner and not a little, exclusively British, unsuitably literary exercise.

The race was on to get the thing ready by the new year closing date for nominations. Twenty-four weeks scheduled post-production were squeezed into 12, with the director Nick Hytner and the editor Tariq Anwar closeted constantly together. You can only cut corners that big, says Stephen

Evans, when there's a really good film in there waiting to be released.

Most people say Evans cut it almost too fine, by releasing the film in only two small American art houses — one in Los Angeles, one in New York — at the eleventh hour. He got away with it. The film was good, the critics said so loudly. Towards the end of the film the recovering King says: "I have always been myself, but now I seem myself. I have remembered how to seem." Fraught but triumphant seeming is what this Oscar was awarded for.

Other British nominees did their seeming on even tighter budgets. Channel 4 backed 12 of them, thereby beating all the big studios as a talent-spotter. As the British section of the evening's billion-strong audience heard Michael Grade say on Oscar night, isn't it time the Government allowed Channel 4 to stop subsidising ITV and use the money to back yet more?



Adam and Scott show off their Oscars

Working on location with people who were sometimes having to cram 18 set-ups into a day rather than the usual five or six must have been something of a shock to Adam's system. So must their anguished looks when he spent thousands on the making of a luxurious bed that ended up too big for the King's bedroom in Arundel Castle.

The big-buck attitude inevitably rubbed off on some of the crew, who demanded overtime payments they would normally have waived when filming in tightwad Britain. In the end, though, the stamina and ingenuity of Martin Chid's team was up to it. You want a huge crowd of unbudgeted-for extras outside St Paul's? OK, we'll give you a small crowd and triple it with special effects. You want them



The £387,136 which Michael Williams won on the National Lottery will not be frittered away on a grand lifestyle. Instead, his dogs will have more meat

## Life's little lottery

Overnight Michael Williams became the richest man in Pencenwydd. Walter Ellis on what happened next

A scarecrow resembling an anorectic Nora Batty greets the visitor to Michael Williams's stone cottage near Pencenwydd, in the remote heart of the Llŷn Peninsula.

Hens cackle behind a fence. Cats cavort on the muddy strip of grass to the front, where a lump of rotting meat provides them with a bloody feast. But the most disquieting presence is that of the pack of dogs — 14 in all — which, upon the stranger's approach, set up a dissonant howl and launch themselves furiously against the flimsy fence that divides them from the outside world.

Michael Williams, 63, who earlier this month won £387,136 on the National Lottery, strides, ruddy-faced, to the gate, calling on his dogs to stay back and be quiet. He is wearing a quilted jacket against the biting March wind, and a fisherman's hat. He looks happy. Life has been good to him at last, and he doesn't care who knows it.

Not, mind, that he is going to move house or take a holiday in the Bahamas or buy himself a luxury limousine. Far from it. He is not, he says, even going to have a telephone installed. But he is going to have his mouldering window frames replaced and he has his eyes on a new front porch to keep out the draughts.

What's more — and surely this is what brings the twinkle to his eyes — local financiers are his allies now, perhaps even his friends. The bank manager and his deputy like to spend time with him and are solicitous with their advice. For a one-time bankrupt, such indulgence is the greatest luxury of all.

Mr Williams has also rediscovered the enduring power of friendship. People he has not seen for years have gone out of their way to convey their best wishes — some from as far afield as Edinburgh and Leeds. An old girlfriend he had not seen since he was a teenager wrote to tell him she had been thinking of him. A former landlady from Jersey — where he had worked in the building trade in the 1970s — sent him a card in which she had inscribed the legend: "Sometimes it's hard to put feelings into words."

Children passing by on the street give him the thumbs-up sign. Mr Williams is thrilled. "I never knew I had so many friends."

But he is canny, too. Advisers from the bank told him that he could donate £60,000 each to his children, Sylvia and Kenneth, free of tax. Mr Williams considered this option then declined. "They can have what's left when I'm gone," he announced.

To his ex-wife, who left him seven years ago for the bright lights of Aberffraw, on Anglesey, the luck of the draw will be a new television set and video recorder, but nothing much more, it seems.

Really big-time lottery winners — those who win millions of pounds — face the sort of disruption that transforms their lives. Camelot, the lottery organisers, send in teams of advisers, and there is, almost inevitably, a keen desire for privacy.

Not so with Michael Williams. At his age, £380,000 guarantees a prosperous retirement and the possibility of occasional grand gestures. But he is not a millionaire and he does not expect to be treated like one.

Camelot supplied him with an advice booklet and directed him to his local bank, but it does not see him as a long-term commitment.

If anything, Mr Williams welcomes this. He has deposited £36,000 in his bank account in Pwllheli and placed the rest in low-risk investments, as recommended. The results, he has been assured, should be a weekly income, assuming a rate of interest of 7 per cent, of as much as £500 a week, leaving his capital intact. It is a fortune to someone who has spent recent years on invalidity benefit, plagued by rheumatism.

"I didn't fancy this overseas investment business, and I've no intention of buying a £50,000 yacht and keeping it moored in Pwllheli marina."

All I want is enough to see me through."

The Williamses are not a close family. Mr Williams rarely sees his children and has to think for a moment before coming up with the name of his grandson, little Kenny. It seems that his marriage broke up out of lack of interest: apparently his wife simply didn't like the way he lived. He hasn't seen his brother, Emlyn, for seven years and has lost his address. "I don't suppose he even knows I've won," he says.

With such loose ties,

Pencenwydd's richest man is free to do pretty much as he pleases, and it pleases him to do very little. He has his dogs and his cats and his "work room" full of junk. He has his pals down the gardening club he treated them to a drink recently and it came to all of £34 and he has his weekly flutter on the lottery, just two lines, administered by friends.

His lucky numbers, the same every week, were 11, 13, 17, 26, 36 and 42. His second line, also unvaried, is 17, 18, 26, 36, 44 and 48. The numbers are written on a jagged-edged

piece of cardboard punched out from a box of paper handkerchiefs, and Mr Williams points out, good humouredly, that if he had had a 12 instead of an 11 in his winning line, he would now be worth £4.2 million.

Family and friends will no doubt benefit from his good fortune. But they will have to wait. Mr Williams is enjoying being in charge of his life.

As for the animals, they can look forward to lots more rotting meat, transported home three times a week in his T-registration Austin Maxi. He is going to buy a new car, too, but he won't use it for trips to the butchers. "It wouldn't do to get blood on the seats, would it?"

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# Spin doctors who need to bash the Beeb

Politicians instinctively pick on the BBC, argues Tony Hall

It's election time and the pressure is on. The phone calls have begun, as well as the faxes, the complaints, the refusals to take part in programmes — especially if on a subject with which politicians feel uncomfortable.

The reason is not too hard to find. At present, we're in the middle of the Scottish local election campaign, with the local elections in England and Wales not far away. On top of that there's the global warming of the whole political climate as eyes begin to focus on the big prize of a general election some time in the next two years. I had expected the pressure of a general election campaign to begin next January, but I have to recognise that it may be on us now. Why does this happen?

The answer is simple: power. They need your vote, and part of the process of winning it is to put pressure on all the media to concentrate on the issues that benefit their party, keeping carefully away from those that don't. This is where the dark art of the spin doctor comes in: pressure, cajole, obfuscate in private; and in public, condemn the media for "bias", pursuing their own agenda and giving the other parties an easy time. A complaint from one party will inevitably prompt a complaint from another, generally to ensure no advantage has been lost. Fear of losing the war of words keeps the telephones hot. Lose the battle for ideas and you might lose the election.

BBC journalists and the political parties have completely different aims. The journalists must be impartial, seeking after the truth, trying to make sense of what's going on, for the benefit of viewers and listeners. The parties are, by definition, wholly partial. In order to get their message across, they believe in the need to manipulate the news agenda for their own self-interest as part of their campaign.

So what are the broadcasters to do? We have to distinguish carefully between accusations of wilful bias on the one hand, and charges of inaccuracy and unfairness on the other. Journalists working under great pressure, against the clock, may make mistakes: a headline may oversimplify, a nuance of a story may be missed, an interview may generate more heat than light. In these cases, there is one simple rule: own up. Treat such complaints seriously, learn from them and make it clear to the audience that a mistake has been made.

But not all complaints are well-founded. What should we do about the more general attacks alleging systematic bias and distortion? At times of great political difficulty, be they internal party divisions, election or wars, the BBC has come under attack. From the Falklands War to the Gulf War, during party crises of Labour or Conservative, our staff have been accused of bias by Government and Opposition.

Before the last election, Chris Patten exhorted the party faithful to complain directly

to the BBC about its reporting. The role of BBC journalism is unambiguous. We must present the facts in a clear, dispassionate and accurate way. The British public must hear and see debates about the key issues that affect our nation. The licence fee gives us the independence to do that.

The most important principle is to ensure we treat all sides in the political debate equally and fairly. For our interviewers and presenters, such as John Humphrys on the Today programme, this means asking pertinent well-briefed questions on behalf of the public. Our research shows clearly that viewers and listeners do not welcome impoliteness, or needless interruptions. But it also shows an overwhelming body of opinion that wants us to make sure we give no easy rides: we ask the tough, difficult questions and make sure we get the answers.

It's also vital we examine the propositions and proposals of all parties with equal rigour, a responsibility we take seriously. Take rail privatisation. In January we interviewed Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, about policy and problems, on several occasions. We also interviewed Labour, including Tony Blair, Michael Meacher and John Prescott, about what they would do if they were in office. All sides were put on the spot and the issues thoroughly aired. Programmes such as *On The Record*, are examining each party's agenda in detail.

This weekend, for example, they looked at the difficulties of Labour's education policy. This is an important role for the BBC, allowing time for a longer exploration of issues to counter the culture of the soundbite.

We must also ensure we have a proper balance in our political reporting. Of course, we must cover the matters of the moment. But we must also use the breadth of our air time to cover the underlying, significant issues that matter, the forces that shape our politics and the political landscape we inhabit. We need to cover the storm; but we also need the quiet moments of reflection. This is not always very popular with politicians. Over the past year, we have tried to explore the big questions affecting our viewers with special BBC2 programmes on taxation, employment and the health service. Government ministers were invited to participate in all these but refused. We carried on.

Above all, political reporting needs the seasoned judgment of experienced correspondents. All sides seek to use us, and we must not be used. Our viewers and listeners expect us to be impartial, a voice they can trust. Whatever the pressures from whatever quarter, that's the duty all our journalists will continue to carry out.

● The author is managing director, BBC News and Current Affairs (television and radio).



## Selling Britain abroad

We need to promote our culture to the world, not our dreary diplomats

First smash the Foreign Office. Then cut the entire British overseas budget of £3.7 billion to zero. Next, abandon all embassies, cancel all receptions, signal withdrawal from all international bodies. Take the files, the attachés, the Orders of the Bath, the sherry glasses and bury them full five fathoms deep. Then start again.

Today in London, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, is sponsoring a most imaginative venture: a Chatham House conference at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre to reconsider Britain's role in the world in the post-Cold War age. He wants to build on Britain's strengths: punching above our weight as he allegedly puts it.

Britain is no longer overshadowed by a perceptible armed threat, whatever the military/industrial complex might plead. Britain is free to choose. The diplomatic endeavour can start from scratch. There are moments, said the economist Peter Drucker, when an organisation must do more than change. "It must abandon everything". For the Foreign Office now is that moment.

Freedom from fear should also mean a freedom from waffle. If British ministers must tell the world what they think of it they can at least say what they mean and mean what they say. Our world goes phrases such as "What Her Majesty's Government wants to see in South Africa (or Gaza or Bosnia or Rwanda or Russia) is..." then a platitude such as "...a coming together of both sides". Britain does not "want to see" anything. We are in no position to be a military or a moral imperialist.

I personally might like the world to have a full belly and a free vote, but my representatives should not presume on my behalf. International morality is for private citizens to express through voluntary charities, not the Foreign Office's compulsory ones. Britain should withdraw from the FO's alphabet soup of UN bureaucracies. People can give to the Red Cross and Save the Children rather than have the Government give to Malaysian dams and World Bank fat cats.

On the clearing of the air! Smooth-talking can cease. Millions of pounds in school fees and reciprocal hospitality will be saved. Britain's ridiculous military attaché network could fold tomorrow to no noticeable loss in national security. If exporters want to export, let them. Why should we subsidise their profits? As for political

reporting from embassies abroad, the Foreign Office admits that nobody reads the stuff. Ministers who want to know what is happening can do what they do anyway, which is read newspapers.

Mr Hurd wants to "deploy effectively" Britain's strengths on their behalf. I am all for that. He identifies them narrowly as the excellence of British soldiers, the dynamism of British bankers (or) and the glory of British art, literature and "external broadcasting". These constitute a "proud record of national and international assets at our disposal". I agree.

Simon Jenkins

the inclination to trade or make friends, is conditioned by what is seen on television, heard on radio, read in books and newspapers. experienced through tourism. The New Diplomats are Oscar winners, sportsmen, tycoons, journalists, tour operators, individual tourists — sometimes even politicians.

Here is Mr Hurd's new core diplomacy. It is devoted to exploiting British language, education and communication skill, to advance whatever policy goals ministers may identify. With political and economic diplomacy left to peripatetic officials out of London, embassies abroad should be selling points for the best of what is British.

Pre-eminence is custodianship of the world's lingua franca. American English must never supplant English in this respect. Our language is marketable, exportable, booming. The British Council's English 2000 campaign predicted last week that by the end of the century half the globe will either speak English or be eager to learn it. Eighty per cent of the world's electronically stored information is in English. The BBC Overseas Service is the pre-eminent international news medium.

A foreigner's relations with Britain will turn on who taught him English and how well; on Britain's cultural presence in his country; on how football supporters and down-market tourists behave; on the welcome that a foreigner gets in London as a student or tourist; on scholarships and academic exchanges offered; on reports by London correspondents of foreign newspapers.

A study of senior officials in South-East Asia showed an overwhelming tendency to visit and do business with the countries that had given them scholarships as students. Grabbing the most talented academic migrants is the single best investment in foreign relations a nation could make. When the Thatcher Government stopped subsidising overseas students in 1981, Germany, Japan and America shot up this league and Britain plummeted.

This means fashioning a wholly new Foreign Office based on the declared objectives of the British Council, the BBC Overseas Service and the British Tourist Authority. Embassies abroad would not be sold — a lunatic idea — but converted as showcases for British art, design, publishing and the selling of education services. They would be centres of brazen cultural ostentation, not the dreary trade missions beloved of the present Government.

Ambassadors would be cultural attachés. No expense would be spared ensuring that English English was taught in every school, that colleges in Third World states were showered with English textbooks, that British libraries abroad were the most popular in every city.

In London, foreign embassies can be disregarded. Washington's view of Britain is influenced not by diplomats but by the London bureaux of *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Domestic diplomatic effort should be devoted to charming the foreign press corps and welcoming foreign students and tourists. London must be scrubbed clean every night. Britain's ramshackle tourist industry must be galvanised, its footpaths quarantined, its actors, musicians and singers sent to entertain the world.

That is the way to win friends and influence people. It would be far cheaper than what we do now. Mr Hurd's budget will take an awful clobbering from the Treasury next year. He should tear it up and give the New Diplomacy a break.

Alan Coren



Everyone loves the Oscars, even if they can't understand a word

At three o'clock on Tuesday morning, at the very moment that a front door in temperate Cricklewood opened to admit a major pizza, extra ham, no anchovy, a distant cuckoo in the lightless lee of Greenland's icy mountains sprang 12 times from its little premises to alert its nodding owner to the fact that it was time to chuck another fir-trunk into the grate and another elk-pelt over the knees, for it was going to be a long cold night.

On India's coral strand, however, it was going to be a long hot morning, so at 9am, in countless millions of coast-to-coast teapots, vast quantities of sustaining char were being put on to brew against a parching ordeal scheduled not to end until the noonday sun. Africa's sunny fountains, on the other hand, had only recently begun to roll down their golden sand, and at 6am the buttons atop millions of alarm clocks were cool to the disconnecting touch; while, away to the east, the spicy breezes blowing soft over Java's isle were at that selfsame moment bearing the reverberations of a far mellowed tocsin, as countless temple bells struck 11 to call the faithful to their television sets.

And all because it was 6pm in Hollywood, signifying that one billion inhabitants of Planet Earth were about to glue themselves to the 6th Academy Awards Ceremony. One billion! I know this figure to be accurate, because, within seconds, tuxedoed and smoking tuxedo was bouncing on to the rostrum to tell me so, as if constant reiteration would somehow save the imagination from collapse.

It did not work. Yesterday, between 3am and 6, the imagination sat gobsmacked, not by the ghastly maulings of this glimmering prizewinner or that, or by the triumphal snippets entered in evidence of their genius, but by the fatuousness speculation which each new announcement generated — a condition owing not a little to the fact that the room in which the imagination was sitting had a large globe in the other, and I very soon found that I could not stop my eyes flickering nystagmically between them, attempting, willy-nilly, to cope with the idea that two thousand million other eyes had simultaneously seen what they just had.

What in God's name could they have made of it? What did David Letterman's already esoteric Tinseltown wisecracks sound like in Hungarian subtitle? How many Uzbekis could with any confidence distinguish between all these megastar triumphs of the orthodontist's art caught in ring-twisting aspiration at their tables, when even buffis like me were flummoxed?

Who among the Sarawak viewership even knew what second-unit direction was? Was anyone in this rapt Borneo longshot or that Hezbollah gunpit in a position to explain to the others with any authority why Alan Bennett had been sidelined or Nigel Hawthorne robbed? As for Ulan Bator, the last time it had stayed up all night was for the World Cup final, and there had been no problem there, they had all kicked a ball about a bit, but how many Mongolians could take a convincing stab at guessing why the make-up team on *Ed Wood* should have won the right to thank its uncles and aunts and second cousins twice removed for everything, when the make-up team on *Frankenstein* had been left with no option but gamely to bite its cheated knuckle?

The truth, I fear, is that all these minutiae are globally irrelevant. The majority of my fellow-billions will have switched on for no better reason than that this was a competition with winners and losers. That is the kind of thing people want to watch, whether it is the Eurovision Song Contest, the Booker Prize, or indeed the Belgian Synchronised Swimming Final and the by-election results from Llandrindod Wells. It is not necessary to have any understanding whatever of what is being contested: we mark not how they played the game, but that they won or lost. So do not be downhearted that Britain's principal achievement was for Best Song Sung by a Drawing. A billion viewers will have thought we did rather well. Oh all right, nearly a billion.

## Fine tuning

CABINET ministers have been queuing up this week to lambast the BBC for alleged left-wing bias at the same time as the Conservative Party plucked one of the corporation's political team to join its staff at Central Office.

Helen Edwards, 29, left the BBC to become the party's broadcasting officer on Monday, just as newspapers reported Jonathan Aitken's attack on the so-called Blair Broadcasting Corporation. But Edwards, who admits that she is not a paid-up member of the Tory party, is no socialist either. "I am a Conservative and always have been," she says.

In her new job, Edwards will be responsible for persuading recalcitrant ministers to appear before the likes of John Humphrys, the presenter of Radio 4's *Today* programme, who was singled out by the Tories for his alleged favouritism towards Labour.

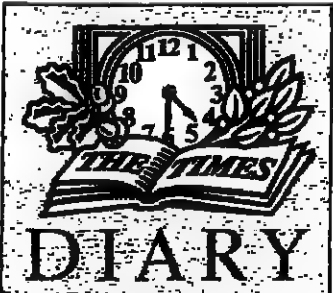
Earlier this month, a senior member of the BBC's political team, Joy Johnson, went to the Labour Party to become campaigns director. The BBC suggests that Edwards's appointment proves that it has a balanced approach to political reporting.

"Joy Johnson to Labour: Helen Edwards to Central Office. Now that's partiality for you," says a spokesman for news and current affairs at the BBC.

### Sister act

SPORTING a striking new strawberry-blond hair-do, Glenys Kinnock handed the prestigious Christopher Ewart-Biggs literary prize to *The Economist* journalist

EVERYONE KNOWS SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN ATTACKED BY JOHN HUMPHRYS



Fionnuala O'Connor on Monday night.

O'Connor's acceptance speech for her book *In Search of a State: Catholics in Northern Ireland* made passing reference to her former colleague on *The Economist*, Mary Ellen Synon. It was Synon's affair with Rupert Pennant-Rea that forced him to resign as deputy governor of the Bank of England. "I'm just another Irish journalist on *The Economist* enjoying her 15 minutes of fame," she said.

### Close contest

BRITISH disappointment at the Oscars was alleviated for television presenter Emma Freud by the simple pleasure of being seated near an international sex symbol. "Keanu Reeves was sitting right behind us," she explained. "It was

the biggest thrill of my life."

Attending the awards ceremony on the arm of Richard Curtis, a nominee for his screenplay for *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, Freud feared the worst from the start. "We were put in the middle of a row, which was a bit of a giveaway," she said, wise to the Oscar tradition of seating winners near aisles. But her pessimism was severely tested whenever *Forrest Gump* was mentioned: "They kept saying, 'And the winner is *Forrest Gump*.'"

### House proud

THE PRINCE OF Wales, who admitted on Monday night to being a "poor" collector of urns and pots for his garden at Highgrove, Gloucestershire, has named a designer tree-house at his home after the royal palace in Edinburgh.

"It's in a holly bush, so we've called it Holyroodhouse," he told members of the National Trust at a lecture in London. After being badgered for a tree-house by his children, he commissioned a local architect. "I was damned if they were going to have something made of old tyres and planks of wood in my garden." The result is



Getting on down: Rushdie

a curiously quaint construction redolent of a fairy-filled illustration by Arthur Rackham.

● After his admission that he was "poor", the Prince of Wales could reasonably be described as "baffled". According to Country Life, the Prince's Institute of Architecture is to open a Doric pavilion south of

Hammersmith Bridge, in London, this week. Its purpose is to provide a rest home for dispossessed bats.

### Salman leap

SALMAN RUSHDIE is a regular on the capital's cocktail circuit, but you don't often see him down the disco. On Monday night at the launch party for Martin Amis's new novel, *The Information*, held in a west London working men's club, his extraordinary gyrations were the talk of literary London.

Ladies queued for the spectacle and their jaws dropped in astonishment — but they joined in nevertheless. The Rushdie wriggle is an unusual one-legged hop in a crouching position, arms whirling like a dervish. "It's been a long time since I went to a disco," he panted during a momentary musical break. "It's good fun, isn't it?" Appropriately for a man living under the threat of a fatwah, he was dancing to the strains of *Stayin' Alive* by the Bee Gees.

● Notice in the porch of Clare parish church, in Suffolk: "Outing — no, not another in the succession of Peter Tatchell's exposures, but a coach trip to Framlingham..."

P.H.S





## MANCHESTER'S MESSAGE

A new educational opportunity for 'New Labour'

When Peter Kilfoyle, Shadow Education Minister, attends the prizegiving at his old school, he cannot fail to notice that the establishment is no longer open to children like him. St Edward's College, Liverpool, is one of the 119 former direct grant schools which were forced into the independent sector when Labour abolished the direct grant system in 1976. Mr Kilfoyle is not alone. Jack Straw also went to a direct grant school which is now private, and Michael Meacher, Shadow Overseas Development Minister, went to a private school on a state scholarship. Most of their colleagues attended grammar schools which are now comprehensive. Yet Labour still seems determined to deny poor but bright children the educational opportunities from which many of its senior spokesmen benefited.

The direct grant schools joined the private sector reluctantly. Many have since regained their wide social mix by taking a large proportion of poorer pupils on assisted places. Labour's plans to abolish this scheme too have sent the schools off on a hunt for other ways of financing their intake. Now Manchester Grammar, one of the country's top former direct grant schools, has said that it would like to rejoin the state sector, provided that it could still select the most academic pupils. Its richer parents would continue to pay fees.

The Prime Minister showed little enthusiasm for this move at Question Time yesterday, presumably because the cost per pupil of a Manchester Grammar place is nearly twice as high as in the state sector. Mr Major's Treasury-inspired indifference seemed unimaginative, since there could be many possible financial relationships between a former direct grant school and the State. But at least his Government, through the assisted places scheme, offers some poor pupils the chance of an excellent education. Labour would abolish assisted places, but would put nothing in their place.

The blurring of the sharp distinction between public and private in the provision of education ought to be a goal of "New Labour". Nothing perpetuates the class system more in Britain than its educational apartheid. Little irritates the middle classes more than the all-or-nothing nature of private education. Unlike health, for instance, state education is not something that can be topped up with private provision. For those parents who have a choice, it is often between badly run, underfunded state schools and fearfully expensive private schools. There is no middle way.

Because Labour is traditionally so hostile to independent schools, it is understandable (if misguided) that the party does not want to extract the brightest pupils from the state sector in order to send them to private schools. But it should be delighted to welcome back to the state system those beacons of excellence that used to be open to all, regardless of means. Instead, David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, said yesterday that "it is important that we aim for a solution which is inclusive for all children rather than partially exclusive". In other words, Manchester Grammar would have to stop selecting its pupils by ability if it wanted to become a state school again.

If it did so, it would lose its shining academic reputation. Since it is certain to be massively oversubscribed, how else is it supposed to select? If it were by catchment area, houses close to the school would simply become affordable only by the rich. The middle classes are again automatic winners when pupils are selected by interviewing parents, as in many grant maintained schools today — including the one chosen by Tony Blair for his son. Labour wants to prove that it has moved beyond the politics of class, envy and anti-elitism that drove it in the 1970s and 1980s. Embracing the former direct grant schools, selection and all, would be a welcome start.

## TWO KINDS OF NATION

Ways of understanding what makes us Britons

Today's conference on Britain's place in the world, held under the auspices of the Royal Institute of International Affairs and promoted by the Government, responds to a growing sense of anxiety about the way the national identity is defined. Its participants will ask themselves a series of questions as pressing as they are basic. Do we need a global and foreign security policy at all? What are Britain's economic interests abroad? How should we encourage good government overseas?

But, as Vincent Cable, the head of the institute's international economics programme, puts it in his background paper for the conference, "the role of Britain in the world ultimately comes back to how British people see themselves". The question of the national identity is inextricably linked with the question of national identity. To look outward with clear sight we must also look inward. Today's participants, including the Prime Minister, must do both. Nationalhood and national interest cannot be reduced to a calculus bereft of myth, roots and passion.

There is a danger that today's speeches dwell exclusively on diplomatic propositions and ignore the broader opportunity for cultural exploration. Tomorrow we will report on whether those fears were justified. In the meantime the other approach to such questions is well exemplified in an intriguing new book, *Landscape & Memory*, by the historian Simon Schama. This is to be the subject of a *Times/Dillons* lecture by its author on April 11 (see page 6 for details).

In this broad survey of the links between culture and nature, Schama provides us with an alternative to purely rational analysis of national identity. We all carry "heavy cultural backpacks", an inheritance of "culture, convention and cognition". Landscape, in particular, is "the work of the mind. Its scenery is built up as much from

strata of memory as from layers of rock". The Enlightenment has taught us to see the natural environment as a controllable resource to be harvested or preserved. Schama teaches us to see it as a construct of the imagination, a series of runes which, if correctly read, tell us something of our origins. The river Thames, he argues, has long been a symbol of English national identity, a fluvial line stretching from the mysterious Celtic-Druidical heart of the nation to the sea and the prospect of imperial power. Flowing from its sources the Isis and Tame through London, it bound the pastoral and mercantile hearts of the nation in an aquatic embrace. Tudor poets such as Edmund Spenser and William Camden revelled in this theme. Elizabeth I used the river as a stage for her personal cult.

The profound significance of the river has roots which are far deeper than mere sentiment. The same, as Schama shows, may be said of Britons' relationship with their forests, which have been symbolic, often simultaneously, of ancestral liberty. Angevin despotism and British naval might. Many visual symbols which we assume to be straightforward are shown by the author to be complex and multi-layered.

History of this kind is particularly welcome at a moment of national reassessment, of which today's conference is a part. There is a strong urge across the political spectrum to consider legalistic and constitutional change, making Britain more regional, more European or both. But books such as *Landscape & Memory* remind us that a society is an organic community as well as an aggregate of individuals connected by interests. Myth and symbol play as great a part in defining Britishness as institutions, laws and treaties. A sense of direction is essential to any nation; but it is nothing without a sense of roots.

## LIFE IN THE BIG CITY

Gazelles from London Zoo return to the sands of Arabia

Regent's Park is a good few furlongs away from *al-Rub al-Khali*, the Empty Quarter of Arabia. Yet that parched and arid place took receipt yesterday of 45 sand gazelles from the Zoological Society. The creatures, now virtually extinct, are in fact indigenous to the Arabian desert, and the transaction represents a tidy triumph for London's zoo.

Modern society has come to question both the role of zoos and the morality of their conception. As our awareness of animals has grown, so too has our sensitivity to the conditions under which many zoos keep them. Where the attitude of the public was once merely that of unthinking wonderment, it is today more complex and demanding. And the sophistication of television programmes has served to bring into our often barren lives the haunting allure of animals in their own habitat.

These factors would have conspired fiercely against London's zoo had the institution itself not elected to respond to the spirit of the times. The conservation of the imperilled species and the education of the young are now its foremost priorities. A young are now its foremost priorities. A Victorian menagerie no longer, the zoo has redefined itself as a compelling ark.

The zoo — an ecological auditor for future generations — has embarked on an extensive international programme for the

rehabilitation of threatened species in their natural habitat. The return to the wild of these species, however, cannot be accomplished without programmes for practical conservation in the countries of origin themselves, and the zoo's conservation division does not ignore these concerns.

Although much of its work is focused on creatures such as the Golden lion tamarin, the Lowland anoa, the Blue-streaked lory, the Gila monster or the Mexican red-kneed bird-eating spider, our own prosaic backyard is not ignored. Of particular concern to the zoo is the English cricket, two types of which — the Field cricket and the Wartbiter — are in peril of extinction. In partnership with English Nature, the zoo's conservation division has worked painstakingly towards their release into the countryside.

The Wartbiters, described by one of the zoo's entomologists as "lovely, huge and green", get their name from an old Swedish practice — not now common — of using them to bite off human warts. The Field cricket, curiously, is not known to have been ever employed in primitive Swedish surgery. Yet like its more glamorous counterparts-in-fauna it receives the meticulous attention of the zoo's scientists. One need not look as far as the Empty Quarter for reasons to support the London Zoo.

## Efforts to set fair electricity prices

From Dr Jack Cunningham, MP for Copeland (Labour)

Sir, As you make clear in today's leader, "The power of privatisation", regulators of the privatised utilities are at present all too easily misled by the companies they are supposed to be regulating, a fact which has led to electricity consumers in Britain being overcharged for the last five years.

You also correctly point out that changing the rules of the game in such a way as to compel the regulator to impose tougher price-caps, because the present ones are so lax, has the effect of reducing the incentives of management to increase efficiency.

As you note, it was only by catching a glimpse of Northern Electric's £560 million "war chest" that Professor Littlechild was alerted to the fact that consumers have been overcharged. This demonstrates the hopeless inadequacy of the present regulatory framework. What, I wonder, is going on inside the other privatised utilities, unobserved by the regulators?

BBC's exposure on *Panorama* of the abuses of monopoly power in the water companies (report, March 27) provides part of the answer. Yet again there is evidence that a glibly regulator has allowed prices to final consumers to be set too high, whilst hundreds of millions of pounds are earmarked for investment have found their way into company profit and loss accounts and executives' salary and share-option packages.

For good measure, you also throw in a gratuitous piece of scaremongering concerning the possibility of "windfall profits taxes under a Labour government", when Professor Littlechild's actions — under a Conservative government — amount to a windfall profits tax.

The Labour Party is committed to working for a dynamic and thriving economy which is characterised by fairness as well as competition. Handing out private monopolies and allowing consumers to be overcharged within a flawed regulatory framework is clearly not a responsible way for a government to behave.

Yours sincerely,  
JACK CUNNINGHAM  
(Shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry),  
House of Commons,  
March 27.

From Mr John Devaney

Sir, Your leader on the electricity industry implies that prices are to fall in the future through the intervention of the regulator.

Even before the new pricing structure comes into play next week consumers are already benefiting from prices that are 4 per cent lower in real terms than in April 1990, when privatisation took place. This now makes UK electricity the fourth cheapest in Europe and represents just 2.6 per cent of average household expenditure.

Having taken service standards to unparalleled levels of performance, all of the 12 regional electricity companies can now offer the consumer a service which is vastly superior to that of pre-privatisation, yet far cheaper.

These facts reflect the success of privatisation so frequently omitted from the current debate surrounding an industry which has, in a relatively short space of time, brought tangible benefits to the public at no additional cost.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN DEVANEY,  
President, Electricity Association,  
(Chief Executive, Eastern Group),  
30 Millbank, SW1,  
March 27.

## Blair on rights

From Ms Caroline Flint

Sir, However welcome Paul Johnson's praise of Tony Blair might be ("Blair talks the language of Thatcher", March 24; letters, March 28), he distorts the message. The Labour leader did not place duties above rights, he simply argued that with rights come responsibilities.

Tony Blair argues that we owe responsibilities to each other, to our community, to the children in our care. These ideas will be familiar to socialists and trade unionists and are not the property of Conservatives.

The Conservatives should fear Blair not because he is becoming one of them, but because he defines a socialism that can be understood and is part of our world. As Paul Johnson rightly suggests, a great many people will fall in behind his banner.

Yours faithfully,  
CAROLINE FLINT,  
256 Chiswick Village, W4,  
March 28.

## Room for expansion

From Mr Leonard Feltham

Sir, I was told many years ago that the infallible sign of middle age (John Diamond, Weekend, March 18) is when your wife tells you to pull your stomach in and you already have.

Yours faithfully,  
LEONARD FELTHAM,  
28 Dryburgh Road, Putney, SW15.

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Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Government aims on nuclear arms

From Professor Joseph Rotblat, FRS

Sir, The Secretary of State for Defence (letter, March 23) reaffirmed the Government's commitment to obtaining an unconditional and indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), but has failed to disclose any specific measures to persuade other states to accept such an extension.

Many states are opposed to it because they doubt that the nuclear states sincerely intend to fulfil their obligation to nuclear disarmament under Article VI of the treaty. Indeed, the UK nuclear policy — which (as stated by Mr Malcolm Rifkind in a speech in London on November 16, 1993) considers the value of nuclear weapons not just in deterring the use of nuclear weapons by an adversary, but in actually preventing war — is seen by many as incompatible with the commitment to nuclear disarmament.

The achievement of a nuclear weapon-free world will take a long time, there are some specific measures that the Government can take towards it now. These measures should include the following:

1. Taking the initiative in putting a nuclear weapons convention (NWC) to abolish nuclear weapons on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.
2. Declaring that, until the NWC is signed, the only purpose of the nuclear arsenal is to deter a nuclear attack, and persuading other nuclear-weapon states to make similar declarations.
3. Urging other nuclear-weapon states to agree on a no-first-use treaty, by which each undertakes not to be the first to use, or threaten to use, nuclear weapons against another.
4. Offering the expertise of the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment to the process of dismantlement of warheads, disposal of plutonium (the uranium problem is simple), and elaboration of a verification regime for the NWC.

These measures would go a long

way to ensuring that the NPT continues after its 25-year term has ended.

Yours faithfully,  
J. ROTBLAT,  
8 Asmara Road, NW2.

From Air Commodore Alastair Mackie

Sir, Malcolm Rifkind's apology for Britain's attitude towards the Non-Proliferation Treaty is as evasive and disingenuous as the plea by Lords Healey, Kennet and Mayhew for honest and positive action (letter, March 21) is definitive and convincing.

The Treaty (Article VI) calls for "good faith" in negotiating "effective measures" for "cessation of the nuclear arms race ... and nuclear disarmament". As to good faith, Britain's call for "indefinite and unconditional extension" (Queen's Speech, November 16, 1994) will have consequences far from what might be imagined. Instead of reducing the number of nuclear states the result would be to perpetuate the status quo of continuing violation enjoyed by the existing five. The true requirement is for a limited extension while another treaty to ban all nuclear weapons is created.

Mr Rifkind's version of effective measures seems to consist in withdrawing half our stock of free-fall bombs, all of which are obsolete anyway, no longer deploying Lance, an old tactical missile whose role ended with the Cold War, and lowering what he calls the "explosive power of the ... nuclear inventory".

The last assertion conceals what matters about the main item in the inventory, Trident, as the Commons Defence Select Committee's *Report on Trident* (May 17, 1994) put it, has "accuracy and sophistication" which "does, and was always intended to, represent a significant enhancement of the UK's nuclear capability".

Yours faithfully,  
A. MACKIE  
(Vice-President),  
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament,  
162 Holloway Road, N7.

## Oppression of Kurds

From Mr Raymond Painting

Sir, From March to December 1994, I worked for the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs as a convoy co-ordinator in southern Turkey. I lived five kilometres from the Turkish/northern Iraq border in Turkey near a little town called Siliopi in what, during better times, had been a camp for pilgrims going to Mecca but was then being used as a refugee camp for Kurds seeking asylum, and for Africans who had been arrested individually in cities and towns all over Turkey.

Because of the Turkish Government's avowed intent to "finish" the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) the border area was swamped with Turkish army units. Some reports said that 100,000 troops were deployed.

During the summer and autumn of 1994 the Turkish air force would appear almost daily and bomb to the east of the camp I was living in, and thousands of people were chased from the hills into northern Iraq in fear of their lives. The same people, it would

appear, are still being pursued by the Turks.

On March 22, I heard a Turkish Government spokesman state on television that innocent civilians are not being killed in the current operation. I ask myself, "how does he know?" Even the pilots dropping the bombs and the gunners firing the artillery do not know what they are hitting or whom they are killing. Having seen at first hand the standard of the Turkish military I think it is a good bet that the only people being killed are innocent civilians.

The idea that you can fight terrorists using conventional weapons is absurd. Killing and dispossessing innocent Kurds will only give the terrorists more support, and if the Turkish Government cannot see this then it is blind. The Turkish handling of the PKK problem and the Kurdish people is shameful — it is nothing but ethnic cleansing.

Yours sincerely,  
RAY PAINTING,  
Forest Hill, SE23,  
March 27.

## Symbolism in India

From Mr Richard White

Sir, The suggestion in your editorial of March 15, that so long as the new BJP/SS government in Bombay does nothing more "innocuous" than rename Bombay there will be "little cause for concern", misses the point. The reversion to the old Marathi name of Mumbai (report, March 23), the switching of the official language of the courts from Marathi to English, the erection of statues and observance of Hindu festivals may be only "symbolic" to you but to the people of India they are the basic elements that comprise communal identity.

The decision by the Raj to replace local vernaculars with English in the courts was controversial in its day but did much to overcome regionalist sentiment and facilitate the emergence of all-India politics. The violence that surrounded the destruction of the Babri Masjid at Ayodhya in 1992 bears testament to the power which symbols can exert on the faithful and in the alienation of minority groups.

The possible changes are indeed symbolic. That is the very reason why they pose a threat to India's future. The majority of Indians arguably care little about the plans for economic reform, but the change to Mumbai is something to which they can relate. Such a move may not affect the West, but for Indians it would spell the end of the secular politics that have held

India together since independence. "Divide and rule" ultimately failed for the British with the coming of partition. Why should it work for the Indians themselves without similarly bloody and divisive consequences?

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD WHITE,  
The University of Wales,  
Department of International Politics,  
Penglais, Aberystwyth, Dyfed.

From Professor W. S. Allen

Sir, Your leader of March 15 views with some amusement the "re-naming" of Bombay as Mumbai by the BJP. But in fact this is simply a reversion to what has always been the vernacular name of the city (derived probably from the patroness deity Mumba-devi).

The form Bombay is a Western corruption, most likely Portuguese in origin. The history of the name is copiously documented in the 1886 Hobson Jobson glossary, and more recently and succinctly in Nigel Hankin's *Hanklyn-Janklyn* (Delhi, 1992), which reports the restoration of the old name by the mayor of the city in 1986.

Such a restoration is therefore no more laughable than that of Kanpur for the corrupted British Cawnpore (or of Beijing for Peking).

Yours faithfully,  
W. SIDNEY ALLEN,  
Trinity College, Cambridge.

## Joseph Needham

From Miss Muriel A. Arber

Sir, Your obituary of Dr Joseph Needham (March 27) records his election to the Royal Society in 1941 but does not mention that in 1948 his first wife Dorothy was also elected FRS. This, I believe, was the first time that a husband and wife had both become Fellows of the Royal Society, and on being congratulated Dorothy said that she was glad to have been able to gratify Joseph's historical sense in this way.

Yours faithfully,  
MURIEL A. ARBER,  
18 Sherlock Close, Cambridge.

From Miss Margery Elliott

Sir, Your obituary does not mention Dr Needham's folk-dancing activities. He was a member (a founder member, I believe) of the Cambridge Morris Men and was also an enthusiastic country-dancer. I remember a clear-hew from my wartime folk-dancing days in Cambridge.

Doctor Joseph Needham  
Dances with philosophic freedom.  
You must mind your toes if  
You chance to dance with Joseph.

Yours faithfully,  
MARGERY ELLIOTT,  
58 Oakham Road,  
Harborne, Birmingham.  
March 27.

## American English not so 'corrupt'

From Professor Stephen Haseler

Sir, You too readily congratulate (leading article, March 24) Prince Charles on his claim (report, March 24) that American-English has a "very corrupting" effect upon the language. Our proselytising Prince also argues that "it is impossible to overestimate the advantage the English language gives us in the world" as the figures (of English speakers) are "staggering".

Yet both the Prince and you might care to ask why English is doing so well throughout the world. Surely the primary cause is the reach and success of the American showbiz "information" and entertainment media which purvey the very American-English that is so derided. Quite simply, the world is still voracious for glimpses of the American way of life.

By contrast the British media and entertainment industry — the purveyors of English-English — seem able to provide only a limited cultural menu. They try to compete with the Americans: kings and queens, costume drama, English class humour, endless countryside scenes and Second World War tales are certainly interesting but for a worldwide audience remain somewhat provincial and limited.

We can sneer at American-English, but the worldwide success of the English language — from which we benefit — is the product of American, not British, popular culture.

The Prince might care to ruminate upon the proposition that if we had not been dominated for so long by the suffocating culture of royalty and nostalgia we might have produced a popular culture as alluring to the world's peoples as the more democratic and universal culture of our American competitors.

Sincerely yours,  
STEPHEN HASELER,  
Thackeray House, Ansell Street, W8,  
March 24.

## Meat of the matter

From Mr John Tuckwell

Sir, Your report of March 23 blames the problems of Dewhursts on their inability to compete with the "high street supermarket giants". I am sure that Dewhursts, like any other butchers worth their salt, would be delighted, nay eager, to compete with high street supermarkets. The problem is that these are often not in the high street but out of town.

The authorities permit, indeed encourage, these out-of-town centres, while subjecting in-town shops to the latter-day Morion's Fork of ever-increasing costs and restrictions and an ever-decreasing customer base. When we have all gone, who then will pay the rates?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN TUCKWELL (Chairman),  
Tuckwell (Butchers) Ltd,  
37 High Street, Wanstead, E11,  
March 24.

## Doorstep delivery

From Dr P. Furniss

Sir, Last week I attended a conference in Brussels and during the evenings enjoyed the delights of its excellent restaurants. I was surprised at the amount of seafood on the menus in a place so far from the sea.

In contrast, at my central city hotel, I was amazed to be served tinned milk with my breakfast cereal: there was no fresh milk available, it seems, in a city that is the centre of the common agricultural policy.

I hope that we in Britain will strive to keep the doorstep delivery of fresh milk rather than be left with the tinned or powdered form.

Yours faithfully,  
P. FURNISS,  
10 Mile End Road,  
Norwich, Norfolk  
March 27.

From Mr Philip H. Stunt

Sir, My father used to tell us children that when he was a boy, before the First World War, neighbours would loiter with shovels in case the milkman's horse delivered anything which could usefully be spread beneath their roses. So perhaps I should not have been astonished to find a leaflet from my enterprising milkman now offering to deliver, with the milk, bags of horse manure.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP H. STUNT,  
Alston, Moulsham Street,  
Chelmsford, Essex,  
March 27.

## Over and out

From Professor Rhys Williams

Sir, Witty recorded messages on telephone answering machines brighten up the day. Our own (which I must confess we adapted from someone else's) is: "Hello. The Williams family is either out or pretending to be. If you want to leave a message ..."

Recently I heard one which was amusing without, I suspect, that being the intention: "Hello. This is the Open University. I'm afraid we're closed at present. If you want to leave a message ..."

Yours sincerely,  
RHYS WILLIAMS,  
35 Kent Road,  
Harrogate, North Yorkshire,  
March 27.



Fund in Bristol at Spenser House, London SW1.

Dr Manon Williams was in attendance.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception given by the Duke of Devonshire at the Horticultural Trust at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, Atlantic Salmon Trust, and President, the Salmon and Trout Association, later attended a Dinner in aid of the North Atlantic Salmon Trust (UK) at the Duke of Wellington at Apsley House, London W1.

Commander Richard Aylard RN was in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**

March 28: The Duchess of Gloucester attended a Reception to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the League of Friends, the Royal Marsden NHS Trust at the Guards' Museum, Wellington Barracks, London SW1.

Mrs Michael Wigley was in attendance.

**YORK HOUSE**

March 28: The Duchess of Kent this evening attended the Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association and teams, the Post Graduate Centre, Furness General Hospital, Dalton Lane, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, were welcomed on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cumbria (Mr James Cropper).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon attended a Reception at the Furness General Hospital, Dalton Lane, Barrow-in-Furness, and later opened the Crossed Wire, Ordsley House Home for Old People, Ordsley, Barrow-in-Furness, and opened the Furness and District Magistrates' Court-house, Abbey Road, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant was in attendance.

**Royal College of Physicians**  
Dr David Pyke delivered the Fitzpatrick lecture to the Royal College of Physicians of London yesterday at 11 St Andrews Place, NW1. Earlier a ceremony had been held for the admission of new members.

**Lady (Eileen) Joseph, of Stanford in the Vale, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, widow of Sir Maxwell Joseph, founder of the food and drinks group Grand Metropolitan, left estate valued at £25,202,002 net. She left her estate mainly to relatives. Her husband died in 1982.**

**Edith Winifred Gottsally, of London W1, left estate valued at £1,698,346 net.**

**She left £13,000 and an annuity of £200 a week to personal legacies and £200 a week to the Army Benevolent Fund.**

[illegible][illegible]

the Coldstream Guards) with Brigadier Richard Heywood (Regimental Lieutenant-Colonel) representing the Coldstream Guards, Brigadier Colonel W. Corbould (Coldstream Guards) representing the Buffs, and Major-General Sir John de Winton (Walter King, President, Windsor branch) with Brigadier and Mrs C M de Winton.

Major Timothy Tumell, the Rev His Honour Christopher and Mrs Lesley, Major Michael Lyett, Mr and Mrs John Lyett, Mr and Mrs John Nicholas Wood, Mr Raleigh Trevelyan, Mrs Chris Cuning, Mr and Mrs John Cuning, Mr and Mrs Stowell, Dr John Treasure, Mrs Michael Clarke, Mr & Laurie, Mrs John & Mrs John, Mr and Mrs Barnard, Miss Charlotte Duncombe, Mr J Flood, Mrs J Potes, Mr Charles & Mrs Charles, Mr and Mrs David Duncombe, Mr David & Mrs David, Mr and Mrs Hymen (representing Fleming), Mr and Mrs John, Mr and Mrs David Robinson (Flem Colmelye), Mr and Mrs Blomhoff and Mr Colin Mackay.

Georges Seurat, painter, Paris 1891; Sir Charles Stanford, composer, London, 1924; Margaret McMillan, educationist, Harrow 1931; Maxfield Parrish, painter, Vermont, 1966; J. Arthur Rank, 1st Baron Rank, industrialist and film magnate, 1972; Carl Orff, composer, Munich, 1982.

Dr Naren Patel, consultant obstetrician/gynaecologist and director of obstetric services at Dundee Teaching Hospital NHS Trust, has been elected President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

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## OBITUARIES

## ANTHONY HEAL

Anthony Heal, chairman of Heal & Son, 1952-81, home furnishings, died on March 25 aged 88. He was born on February 23, 1907.

IN A lifetime of involvement with the furniture trade, Anthony Heal strove to maintain and further the standards of design and quality with which his father, Sir Ambrose Heal, had made the Tottenham Court Road store, Heal's, famous. His own working association with Heal's — founded by his great-grandfather John Harris Heal in 1810, and from the reign of George V bed-maker to kings, queens and princes — had begun 65 years ago when he joined the family firm after a furniture trade apprenticeship. It continued until the takeover of Heal's by Habitat/Mothercare in the 1980s, by which time he was head of the firm.

Heal's other great passion in life was vintage sports cars, and he was a familiar sight on the roads, defying all weathers in one or other of his open Sunbeams on his way to Vintage Sports Car Club (VSCC) rallies and events. He was a recognised authority on the racing heyday of Sunbeam cars and his book, *Sunbeam Racing Cars 1910-1930* (1989), was the standard work on the subject. But he was not merely addicted to the motor past. He had also tangled in "hotter" company, entering the Le Mans 24-hour race in 1949 in an Aston Martin.

Anthony Standerwick Heal was educated at Leighton Park School, Reading, from where he went for further study at Grenoble University and in Munich. Returning to Britain he served an apprenticeship in the workshops of Gordon Russell in Broadway, Worcestershire, 1927-29, before joining the family firm in London.

Appointed a director of the company in 1936, he soon thereafter became managing director, concentrating on maintaining the beautifully designed furniture through which the firm had established its pre-eminence in the field. As chairman from 1953 he was responsible among other things for the company's advertising and promotions. From 1981 to 1984 Heal was head of the business, Heal & Sons Holdings.



HEAL'S  
GROUND FLOOR  
ACCESSORIES  
& GIFTS  
BAGS & BAGGAGE  
CHINA  
CUTLERY  
GLASSWARE  
FRAMES & MIRRORS  
STATIONERY  
TABLE LINEN

But in 1983 the firm, then suffering growing identity and trading problems, and losses in a climate catering increasingly for younger tastes, was bought by Sir Terence Conran's Habitat/Mothercare group.

Heal continued his association for another year, working on the collation of the company's archives which form a valuable contribution to the history of furniture making in Britain. The Heal archive was, in fact, recently given to the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Heal finally retired in 1985 to devote himself to his many other interests. (In 1990 Heal's became independent again after a management buyout, though the original family interest was not resumed. It lost its Royal Warrant in 1991.)

He had many appointments in the furniture trade outside his own company. Among them was his mastership of the Furniture Makers' Guild: his

membership of the Council of Industrial Design and his membership of the City & Guilds of London Institute. He was much concerned with technical education in the furniture industry and in 1965 was awarded the Royal Society of Arts bicentenary medal for design.

His principal interest outside the furniture industry, old sports cars, had been a ruling passion since his youth. In 1931, before the foundation of the VSCC, he had gained a silver medal driving a Frazer Nash in the Land's End trial, taking another in the Land's End event of 1935. He relished these early long-distance trials, taking the Premier Award in the 1935 London-Exeter trial, with his OE 30/98 Vauxhall, followed by a silver medal with the same car in the 1936 London-Edinburgh trial.

When the VSCC was formed in 1934 Heal was immediately attracted, driving his Vauxhall in the 1936 Chiltern

trial and thereafter participating in a variety of speed and endurance events. When the Edwardian section of the VSCC was formed he was one of the outstanding performers, in a 1910 10-litre S61 Fiat that he had discovered abandoned and restored to running condition. He was to demonstrate that the Fiat was about the fastest of the Edwardian racers and when he married, in 1941, he used the giant Italian car as the bridal carriage.

During the war he served in the Home Guard, acquiring at the same time a number of interesting cars, including three Sunbeams: a 1914 TT, a straight-eight 3-litre TT, and a 3-litre twin-cam super-sports Sunbeam that was to remain his favourite car and which he drove long distances almost to the day when he was taken ill.

He also had a 1909 Napier and his wartime article *The First to Wear the Green* celebrated the racing history of the make. Heal's knowledge of Sunbeam history was unmatched and his book on the subject is definitive.

His driving skills would, in fact, have made Heal a formidable racing driver. Indeed, with Dudley Folland, he had a go at the Grand Prix d'Endurance at Le Mans in 1949, in a 2-litre Aston Martin, although the pair had to retire with mechanical trouble.

He would have liked to have another shot the following year but after a few road runs in France he terminated his association with the French car driver he was intending to drive with, when the latter was found to prefer drink to the rigors of the Le Mans circuit.

Over the years Heal continued a close association with the VSCC, putting in a vast amount of work to resuscitate it and get it back on its feet after the war. In 1947 he became club captain but his chairmanship of the Heal business prevented him from becoming its president. Heal was frequently using his 3-litre Sunbeam to attend events long after many people would have given up driving; he was a knowledgeable and highly companionable supporter of the vintage car scene.

He married, in 1941, Theodora Caldwell (née Griffin). She died in 1992 and he is survived by two sons.

## SIR ALAN NEALE

Sir Alan Neale, KCB, MBE, former Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food died on March 21 aged 76. He was born on October 24, 1918.



ALAN NEALE enjoyed the distinction, not all that common among Whitehall mandarins, of being almost better known in the United States than he was in Britain. His book *The Anti-Trust Laws of the USA*, published in 1960 following a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship, was a study of American anti-monopoly legislation, intended for British businessmen with transatlantic aspirations. But the work was so highly acclaimed that Americans started snapping it up themselves. It quickly ran into several editions and became the standard textbook on the subject.

A separate sabbatical at Harvard's Centre for International Affairs led to Neale's second publication, *The Flow of Resources From Rich To Poor*, in 1961. Then seven years ago, while in retirement, he collaborated with an American lawyer, R. L. Stephens, to produce *International Business and National Jurisdiction* which was based on Stephens's doctoral thesis at Oxford.

Alan Derrett Neale was a model civil servant. He was born in Leeds where his father happened to be serving in the Army during the First World War, but brought up in London where the family owned a prosperous shirtmakers and gentlemen's outfitters in Broad Street, not far from Liverpool Street station. The company specialised in producing waiters' outfits.

Young Alan went from Highgate School to St John's College, Oxford, to read PPE despite an aptitude for modern languages at school. He was among those awarded a "wartime degree", the exigencies of the Second World War cutting short his final year at university. Commissioned into the Intelligence Corps, he served in North Africa and Italy where his fluent German, refined by visits to pre-war Germany while at school, won him a job intercepting and analysing German signals. A captain by the time the war ended, he was appointed MBE (military), which always gave him special pleasure.

Demobilised, Neale joined the Board of Trade where he stayed until 1968, becoming a Deputy Secretary in the previous year. He then transferred to the Treasury where he was made Second Permanent Secretary from 1971 to 1972, specialising in overseas finance and monetary policy.

His final appointment was as Permanent Secretary in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, where he arrived at the most testing time possible — just as Britain was entering the European Community. The common agricultural policy, with its built-in European preferences and support systems, forced the ministry to take a fresh look at the world and involved it in seemingly endless negotiations over such traditional imported commodities as West Indian sugar and New Zealand butter and lamb.

Neale wisely stood back from the sharp end of the talks in Brussels, leaving these to his deputy and other subordinates with more specialised knowledge and experience. But he masterminded the process from Whitehall and applied his considerable intellect to some of the more intractable problems.

Perhaps the greatest compliment that could be paid to him is that other civil servants at the ministry, often resentful at having permanent secretaries thrust upon them from the Treasury and other ministries, never complained about the appointment of Alan Neale.

He served under three Ministers of Agriculture, the Conservative Joseph Godber and two successive Labour ministers, Fred Peart and John Silkin, before retiring in 1978 after five years at the top. After leaving Whitehall Neale took up two part-time posts in turn. First he joined the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in 1981, becoming a deputy chairman for four years from 1982. Then in 1987 he was made deputy chairman of the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers, retiring from that, too, four years ago, by which time his health was failing.

Undemocratic and quietly efficient, Neale embodied all that was best in the tradition of Whitehall. His kindness to colleagues and freedom from pomposity made him well-liked by those working under him, while his loyalty and reliability ensured him a good working relationship with all his ministers.

He became chairman of the Reform Club where he could frequently be seen at the bridge table. He also shared a passion for snooker with Fred Peart and would often take Peart to the Reform for the odd frame, although Peart is said usually to have won. His other interests included music.

Alan Neale is survived by his wife Joan, a former colleague at the Board of Trade whom he met while both were attending a GATT conference at Geneva, and by one son.

## BELLE SHENKMAN

Belle Shenkman Smith, fundraiser and patroness of the arts, died of leukaemia on March 11 aged 66. She was born on June 24, 1928.

RIGHT up to the week of her death Belle Shenkman was Canada's unofficial cultural attaché in London. She devoted her very considerable energies to ensuring that Canadian artists of all types were properly appreciated in Britain. It mattered not whether they were dancers, musicians or painters or whether they came from the English or French-speaking parts of the nation. Equally, when British companies went to Canada she regularly paved the way to make sure that the tours went smoothly and were properly attended. Canada and Britain were the only two countries which mattered to her.

Among her major successes was the first visit of the National Ballet of Canada to the Royal Opera House in 1979. The following year she raised much of the money for the Royal Ballet to play a week's season at the O'Keefe Centre in Toronto. Her connections gave her the entrée to the office of many a company

chairman and, once inside, her enthusiasm and personal chic did the rest. She usually exited with at least a promise of help and, at the best, a large cheque, although it has to be said that 15 years ago the purse strings were open rather wider than they are now.

Belle Shenkman was equally persuasive with arts journalists and critics, who were encouraged to write favourable preview stories of the companies and orchestras coming to Britain. She was an expert in organising gala performances. Under her sharp eye the theatre would be properly decorated for the occasion and she would ensure that there were no empty seats in the house, even if it meant going out into the streets to find people to fill them. At one rather grand evening a Canadian backpacker found herself sitting between Sir John Tooley and Dame Alicia Markova. She also ensured that those who had put up the money were properly entertained; generosity was rewarded with generosity and this was one of the reasons why she got on so well with most of her sponsors. Belle Shenkman was born



in Kiev, but her parents left Ukraine for Ottawa when she was only three months old. She grew up in the Canadian capital and married when she was 30. She gradually drifted apart from her husband, Harold Shenkman, a businessman, and eventually came to London in 1962, but not before she had been a member of the board of the Ottawa Symphony. She quickly made her mark in Canadian expatriate circles here and became president of the Canadian Women's Club in 1966. In 1972 she helped to promote the first

visit of the National Ballet of Canada to London at the Coliseum, to which they returned three years later.

Her second marriage, to Desmond Smith, was in 1979. He was a Canadian major-general, who had had a distinguished wartime career. An elegant man, exuding charm and authority, he was as successful out of uniform in commerce as he had been in it at the front. He helped to provide the ideal backdrop for his wife's fundraising activities, including a substantial apartment near the Albert Hall. Its walls were hung with a number of contemporary paintings, by no means all by the "easiest" of artists, which proclaimed the family taste.

Belle Shenkman was taken on as a sponsorship consultant by several companies, including Alcan and Jaguar. She was also a valuable ally of both the Royal Ballet and the Sadler's Wells Ballet. When the latter went on a tour of western Canada, where the company name was not exactly on everyone's lips, Belle Shenkman used her old technique of a series of gala performances to make sure the reception was right.

She worked equally hard for the Royal College of Music, arranging for the help of Jaguar for groups of students there to give performances at British embassies in Europe. She was a small woman physically, standing at little more than 5ft and almost birdlike in appearance. But she emanated energy and was single-minded in her determination to see that Canada was at all times reflected in a correct cultural light. Some of this enthusiasm waned after the death of General Smith in October 1991. One of her main props had been taken away and she was less inclined to go out raising money for artists, the task at which she had excelled for more than twenty years. She is survived by a son and a daughter.

## PROFESSOR LASZLO LAJTHA

Professor Laszlo Lajtha, CBE, scientist, died on March 14 aged 74. He was born on May 25, 1920.

LASZLO LAJTHA was a son of one of Hungary's three greatest composers of classical music but, although a lover and connoisseur of music himself, he was not destined to follow in his father's footsteps. In 1938 he entered medical school in Budapest, graduated in 1942 and embarked on a research career with George Hevesy, pioneer of the use of radioisotopes in biological investigation, in the department of physiology.

He came to England in 1947 under the auspices of a British Council visiting fellowship — and repaid the council, despite frequent headhunting attempts throughout his distinguished career, by staying and eventually becoming a British citizen.

Influenced now by eminent haematologists at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford, Lajtha introduced his radiolabelled expertise and by the mid-1950s had become one of the world's foremost experimental haematologists and radiobiologists.

Fifteen happy years were spent in Oxford before he was persuaded by the Medical Research Council in 1962 to accept a new challenge. The Christie Hospital in Manchester, one of the leading cancer hospitals, had a fledgling and somewhat fragmented research programme. The challenge was to unify and develop that research.

He tackled the task with such vigour that within five years he had won the support of the then British Empire Cancer Campaign and had built a brand-new research

centre, housed for the first time under one roof and now world famous as the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research. Until his retirement in 1983, Lajtha not only continued to develop the Paterson but retained his pre-eminence as a research scientist. Young scientists the world over competed for the chance to work as visiting scientists under his direction. Although he was recognised internationally by scientific colleagues for many years, official recognition came slowly.

His efforts were eventually rewarded, however, first with the Chair of Experimental Oncology, created for him by the University of Manchester in 1970 and then, in 1983, by his appointment in the New Year's Honours List, as CBE. That same year, his native country officially recognised his work by conferring upon him honorary membership of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

He served with distinction on many public bodies: nationally (with the Cancer Research Campaign, the Joint Co-ordinating Committee on Cancer, the National Radiation Protection Board among others) and internationally.

Those with whom he worked Laszlo Lajtha was charismatic, intellectually dynamic and very forceful in many ways the archetypal middle-European professor. He arrived in Manchester with "plans", and his arguments proved irresistible, though seldom diplomatic or unduly hindered by democratic process. Nevertheless, research with Laszlo Lajtha was undoubtedly enjoyable for most of the time for those who liked challenge. He was always available for discussion or argument and was also the most loyal and encouraging of colleagues to have at a scientific meeting.

Although he clearly enjoyed being in a position to have his opinions heard and taken into account in the development of science and medicine, he never imagined himself indispensable and this was reflected in his prompt retirement. He recognised that research institutes need regular transfusions of new blood in order to continue to flourish. Another reason was his wide-ranging interests: Egyptology, archaeology, horticulture and baroque music among many others.

He returned to the Oxford area where he could pursue his major interest in ancient Japanese history and poetry: his most recent scholarly pursuit was to collect and then to illustrate a form of Japanese poetry known as *Tanka*. Typical of Lajtha was a sixth-form science club at the local grammar school.

He is survived by his wife Gillian and two sons.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

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Alitalia	British	Continental	Delta	Embraer	Eurowings	German	Japan	KLM	Lufthansa	Qatar	Swire	Thai	Virgin
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

See Page 26 of Section 2

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## C.O.D. TO-DAY.

NEW SYSTEM IN FORCE.  
The new inland postal cash on delivery system comes into force to-day. There has been considerable opposition to the new proposals; and at the outset all the trade organisations opposed the idea, holding that it would lead to a blow at local industry. Following the announcement of the Government's intention, protests were launched by the British Chambers of Commerce, the Association of Retail Distributors, the Drapers' Chamber of Trade, and similar bodies.

These views seem to have modified in the interim, for it has been realized that Great Britain is the only important country in Europe in which the system does not exist. At the last meeting of the Association of Retail Distributors it was decided that all members present should be recommended to pay the postage fees on all goods sent C.O.D. where the orders exceeded one pound in value. It was also decided to ask the Prime Minister and the Postmaster-General that separate accounts should be kept of the income and expenditure involved in operating the system so that the success or failure of the system could be judged at the end of the first year.

Among those who are not prejudiced it is recognised that this adventure is not without precedent. The system obtains in the Dominions, and at present parcels may be sent C.O.D. to a number of places abroad, including such remote destinations as the Falkland Islands, the Cook

## ON THIS DAY

March 29 1926

Although the inland postal cash on delivery system (C.O.D.) operated in many European countries, it did not meet with a universal welcome when it was introduced here.

Islands, the Malay States, the Gold Coast, and British East Africa. It is, therefore, believed that the present experiment should result in a substantial addition to the Post Office revenue. The Post Office is prepared to deal with everything sent cash on delivery to-day. The service will apply to everything which may be sent by parcel post. The value stated by the sender on the charge form will be collected from the addressee by the Post Office and remitted immediately to the sender by means of a special Order. Parcels, ordinary or registered, may be posted C.O.D. at any money order post office. Parcels not exceeding £5 in value will be delivered at any address within the limits of the service on payment by the addressee to the postman of the

amount to be collected; for those which exceed £5 in value the addressee will be required to pay the amount to be collected at the post office indicated on an advice note which will be sent to him. The service does not apply to the Irish Free State in either direction.

There is no doubt that postal shopping has greatly increased during the last few years, principally owing to the good faith which has been fostered as between the firms who make a feature of this method of purchase and their many customers. The accepted bargain is that money will be returned, if the goods do not give satisfaction and are returned within three days in good condition. That both parties observe their side of the bargain—the advertising firm being careful not to overstate and the customer not to exercise too great caprice—has been the cause of the growth of the mail order departments, as they are known in the trade. It is expected that C.O.D. will cause a big increase in business.

With the new system, all the preliminary work with the forms and documents lies with the sending firm, and the customer has merely to pay to the postman the amount due on the purchase. An important announcement has been made by the three great shops of Kensington High-street: Barkers, Derry and Toms, and Postings will defray the Government charges on all goods purchased from their advertisements or catalogues to the value of £1 or more. This means that anyone can order goods through the post on the new system and pay only the advertised price.

















## ARTS 28-30

Wagnerian splendour at Covent Garden



## MEDIA 31

Noel Edmonds: TV's one-man industry



## SPORT 35-40

Venables takes cold comfort from wintry spell

TELEVISION AND RADIO  
Pages 38, 39

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY MARCH 29 1995

Society's court victory fuels C&G dispute

## Judge backs Halifax float

By ANNE ASHWORTH

THE Halifax has won the right to award shares to 10 million customers when it makes its planned stock market debut in the spring or summer of 1996. However, other investors will not be able to buy shares when the building society converts itself into a £10 billion bank after a merger with the Leeds Permanent that will be put to the vote in May.

Under the Halifax scheme, approved by the High Court yesterday, every investor will collect an estimated £500. Anyone with £1,000 plus in an account could receive at least £500 more, depending on the size of the deposit.

Jon Foulds, the Halifax chairman, said: "We are delighted by the court ruling. It allows us to offer members of the Halifax

and the Leeds a scheme which we believe fairly reflects their interest in the societies."

The structure of the offer is now set to be the model for all future building society conversions. There will now be renewed speculation about the possible flotation plans of other large societies, such as the Nationwide, the Alliance & Leicester and the Woolwich.

More immediately, the Halifax victory adds to the controversy surrounding the £1.8 billion Lloyds bid for the Cheltenham & Gloucester. Whereas the C&G deal denies cash bonuses to all the society's 400,000 borrowers and 100,000 savers of less than two years' standing, all Halifax borrowers and savers, regardless of status, will benefit from this shareout.

When C&G members gather in London this Friday to vote on the takeover, the C&G chief executive, Andrew Longhurst, and his fellow executives are expected to face further demands to reconsider their strategy for the society.

Opposition from borrowers is likely to be particularly vociferous. Although they do not stand to gain from the merger, the consent of a majority of those borrowers voting is essential to carry the proposals, even if savers, in their separate vote, are overwhelmingly in favour.

The C&G yesterday refused to be deflected from its path by the Halifax ruling. A spokeswoman said: "The Halifax judgment related to a flotation, not to an acquisition. It cannot affect the proposals that we have put to our members. They have known from the outset that ours is a cash deal. Shares were never going to be available."

One of the principal reasons given by the C&G for not offering shares related to the five-year ban placed on takeovers of societies that have gone public. During this period, shareholders would not be able to "realise any acquisition



Mike Blackburn, the Halifax chief executive, after yesterday's High Court approval for the society's flotation plan

premium which might be offered by a potential purchaser of the company."

C&G borrowers and C&G savers of less than two years' standing were excluded from the cash payments by a High Court ruling last June.

However, in his consideration of the Halifax scheme, Mr Justice Chadwick was guided by details of the decision in the Abbey National conversion, in which all savers

and borrowers were given free shares. The judge said: "I am not persuaded that the C&G decision says that I should not treat the Abbey National decision as good law."

The case was brought by the Building Societies Commission, the industry regulator, to clarify the meaning of section 100 (8) of the Building Societies Act 1986, which states that the rights to acquire shares in priority to other subscribers

must be restricted to members of at least two years' standing. In the Halifax's case, there will be no other subscribers, because those who are not customers will not be eligible to apply for shares. Savers who have been with the society for more than two years will receive additional shares under the variable distribution.

In his interpretation of what he called a "very obscure" section, drawn up to prevent

speculative flows of cash between societies on rumours of impending flotations, the judge reviewed parliamentary material and consultative documents that formed the basis of the 1986 Act.

Outside court, Philip Ashcroft, a solicitor for the commission, said: "We will have to give careful study to Mr Justice Chadwick's ruling."

Pennington, page 23

## Bus staff may net £38,000 windfall

By SARAH BAGNALL

MORE than 5,000 bus drivers, engineers and other staff of West Midlands Travel stand to make about £38,000 each as a result of the planned merger with National Express, which values WMT at £243.7 million.

Don Colston, WMT chairman, will hold shares in the enlarged group worth more than £4 million and own options on 800,000.

WMT, owned by about 5,500 of its 7,000 staff and managers, was bought by employees for £70 million from the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority in 1991. Employees own 100 per cent of the equity, but only 42 per cent is held directly, with the rest held in two trusts.

National Express is offering 675 new shares for every 1,000 WMT shares, and a second interim dividend of 3.9p. National Express's shares are suspended at 317p.

There is a cash alternative of 212p per share for the 42 per cent of WMT's equity owned directly by employees. This enables employees to realise in cash about £15,900 each immediately. The cash alternative is limited, so if all employees take the option, they will receive only 58 per cent of their full entitlement in cash. To encourage WMT employees to keep their shares, National Express is offering a loyalty bonus of £20 million, payable in two years' time.

If WMT employees hold on to all their shares, they will own 62 per cent of the enlarged group. National Express is also raising £20.9 million via a placing, on the basis of one for six, to fund capital expenditure.

□ BADGERLINE, the bus operator, soared to a £16.7 million profit (£930,000 loss) in the year to December 31. The 3p final payout due May 22, makes 4.5p. EPS rose 12.5 per cent to 9.9p.

Pennington, page 23

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3128.3	(-21.9)
Yield	4.36%	
FT-SE All share	1533.06	(-7.81)
Nikkei	18681.73	(+685.48)
New York		
Dow Jones	4141.78	(-15.59)
S&P Composite	522.49	(-0.71)

### US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(8 1/4%)
Long Bond	102 1/2%	(103 1/4%)
Yield	7.36%	(7.32%)

### LOAN MARKET

3-month interbank	8 1/8%	(8 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2%	(103 1/4%)
Future (Mar)	102 1/2%	(103 1/4%)

### STERLING

New York	1.8105*	(1.8085)
London	1.8087	(1.8077)
DM	2.2431	(2.2434)
FF	7.3670	(7.3685)
Sfr	1.4822	(1.4827)
Yen	143.18	(142.31)
E index	88.4	(85.4)

### US DOLLAR

London	1.2915*	(1.4057)
DM	4.6153*	(4.8490)
Sfr	1.1486*	(1.1567)
Yen	98.18*	(95.40)
E index	90.6	(90.3)

### Tokyo close Yen 89.35

### BRITISH POUNDS

Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$17.18	(\$17.10)
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### London close

\$382.38	(\$381.98)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## On schedule

The *Oriana*, the latest addition to P&O's cruise fleet, will sail out of Southampton on her maiden voyage a week on Sunday in spite of the delays that have dogged her delivery, P&O promised.

Page 23, Tempus 24

## Subsiding

Taylor Woodrow, the construction, housing and trading group, said yesterday that it would make "substantial cuts" in its British construction business, which weakened in 1993 and shows little sign of turning around. The company said: "Volume is deteriorating and the pressure on margins is becoming even more severe."

Page 22, Tempus 24

## Nuclear sale nears after £15bn pact

By ROSS TIEMAN

NUCLEAR ELECTRIC will on Friday sign a £15 billion deal for reprocessing spent atomic power plant fuel by BNFL, the state fuel services group.

The agreement will cap the group's costs and reinforce efforts by directors of both Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, its Scottish sister company, to have both companies privatised before the next election.

Nuclear privatisation is now being debated by the Cabinet. In spite of doubts expressed by Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, John Major is understood to be sympathetic to arguments in favour of a sale.

Completion of the Nuclear Electric deal, three and a half years after it was announced, comes only three weeks after a surprise £4 billion fuel supply and disposal agreement between BNFL and Scottish Nuclear.

The fuel contracts will cap the costs of both state-owned generating companies and transfer a great deal of financial risk to BNFL. If ownership of the companies' oldest Magnox reactors was also transferred to BNFL, together with their huge decommissioning liabilities, ministers believe the generators could be privatised. No legislation would be needed, although the Government would have to win the vote after a parliamentary debate.

The fuel reprocessing agreement comes as other western countries, led by Germany, appear to be switching to dry storage instead. In December, two of BNFL's German customers cancelled options to send fuel to Britain for reprocessing, despite a penalty fee of almost £100 million.

Pennington, page 23

## Dawson chiefs go as 500 lose jobs

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

DAWSON International, the troubled textiles group, has ousted its chairman and managing director and axed 500 jobs in a bid to restore its ailing fortunes.

Sir Ronald Miller has stepped down as chairman after 27 years with the group. He will be succeeded by Derek Finlay, a former main board director of HJ Heinz and a non-executive director of Dawson since 1990.

Nick Kuenssberg, who was appointed managing director less than a year ago, has also gone, making way for Peter Forrest, a fellow director. The group is looking for a new chief executive.

Mr Finlay said institutional shareholders had lost confidence in the group, which has delivered a steady series of bad news over the past year. At Pringle of Scotland, which made a loss for the first

time in recent history, 350 jobs are to go. Mr Finlay said the business had run into difficulties following over-ambitious expansion outside its core knitwear business. A further 140 jobs are to be axed at Blackwood Brothers, the group's yarn operation. The reorganisation will incur exceptional losses of £10 million.

Action to cut costs at Dawson Home Fashions, the US bathroom accessories division, has failed to cut operating losses, and the business has been put up for sale. The group tried to sell it last summer. Mr Finlay said the group was in negotiations but did not rule out further provisions.

Dawson expects pre-tax profits before exceptional items for 1994 to exceed £23 million and anticipates a final dividend of not less than 1.5p.

Tempus, page 24

## World's biggest bank merger

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

MITSUBISHI Bank and Bank of Tokyo, Japanese banking giants, are planning a merger that will create the world's biggest bank with combined assets worth ¥73 trillion (£508 billion).

The two banks confirmed their merger plans at a hastily convened evening news conference in Tokyo yesterday. They plan to merge by April next year with the newly combined bank to be called Tokyo Mitsubishi Bank. Its financial resources, or balance of deposits, will far exceed those of other major Japanese commercial banks and its closest rivals in Europe and the US.

Tsunao Wakai, the president of Mitsubishi Bank, confirmed reports of the merger at a hastily called news conference, after rumours of the deal intensified throughout the day, in spite of repeated den-

als by both banks. The rumours prompted a surge in trading of Mitsubishi Bank shares, and forced the Tokyo Stock Exchange to suspend trading of the shares in both.

Mr Wakai is expected to become the chairman of the new bank and Yasuko Takagaki, the president of Bank of Tokyo, will become president, according to bank officials.

Japan's Finance Ministry last night welcomed news of the merger and said formal approval is likely to be given shortly.

Ministry officials said they hoped the merger would help reinvigorate the flagging stock market and stimulate efforts to rationalise and streamline the banking and finance industries.

Pennington, page 23  
UK banks dwarfed, page 25

## Final page of bestsellers sales drama

By MARTIN WALLER

CUT-PRICE copies of the latest books from John Le Carré and Stephen King will nestle in shopping trolleys across the land alongside the discounted confection and baked beans by the end of the year, the publisher of both authors has predicted. In December, two of the publisher's big supermarketers at 20% off the full published price.

Meanwhile, several grocers are known to be examining ways around the Net Book Agreement, which prevents most publishers from discounting.

Hodder Headline is one of two of the biggest five publishers that have already

said they will no longer comply with the NBA, and two forthcoming blockbusters, Le Carré's *Our Game* and King's *Rose Madder*, due out from Hodder this summer could be the final testing ground for the agreement.

Mr Hely Hutchinson said the death of the NBA had been forecast for at least 20 years — "it's had more lives than a cat". But he was hopeful that if just one of the high street grocers decided to discount forthcoming best sellers from all publishers this summer, the rest would be forced for commercial reasons to follow. This would, in turn, put further pressure on the bookshops to cut the price of all new books, a move most have so far been unwilling to make.

His company was unveiling the first

full-year benefits of the merger between Headline and Hodder & Stoughton in June 1993, with pre-tax profits more than tripled in 1994 from £2.61 million to £8.16 million. Hodder is paying a 4p final, raising the total 1p to 6p out of earnings of 15.7p. The company plans to boost the number of new books published this year by 900 to 2,600, half this increase coming from new ventures and acquisitions.

Several grocers are already well advanced in their plans to discount. Asda attempted to cut prices on some popular titles in February, but was prevented from doing so by an injunction from the Publishers Association. A spokesman said last night any further moves would probably await a Commons select committee inquiry into the NBA after Easter.



Hely Hutchinson: talks

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TRADE INDEMNITY



## Wace agrees £9m sale

Wace, the printing services company, has conditionally agreed to dispose of its German and Italian imaging businesses for an aggregate £9.3 million.

Wace also announced a rise in 1994 pre-tax profits to £23.1 million from £15.9 million. The total dividend is 5.25p a share (3.5p), with a final 3.75p.

## Astec ahead

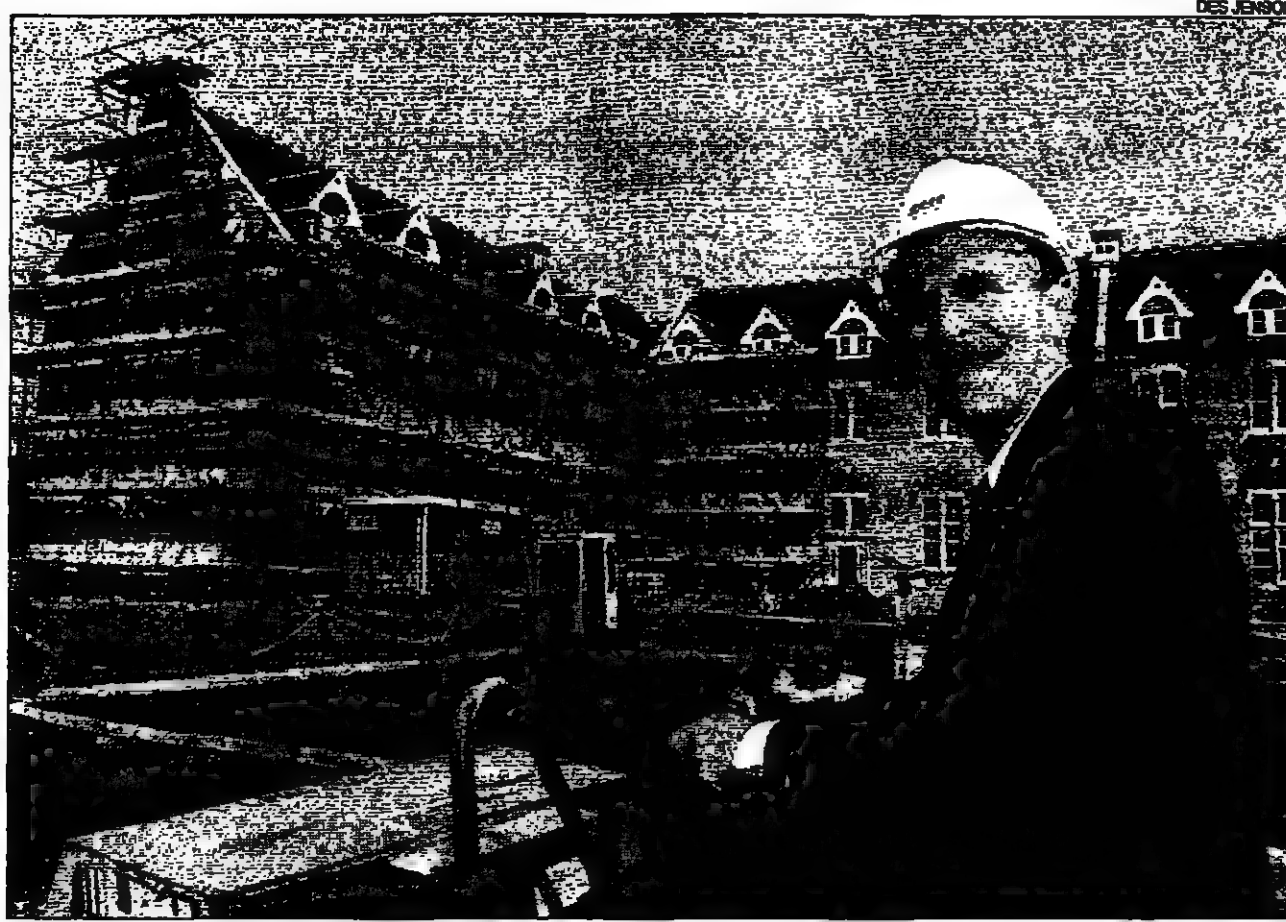
Astec BSR, the power conversion and electronic components company, improved profits to £21 million before tax in 1994 from £14.9 million in the previous year. The total dividend rises to 1.2p a share from 0.75p, with a 0.8p final, due June 6.

## IBC rises

International Business Communications (Holdings), the business information company, saw operating profits rise to £10.8 million in 1994 from £7.5 million in the previous year. There is a final dividend of 5p a share, making a total of 6.5p (2p).

## ITN post

Stewart Purves, editor in chief of ITN, will succeed David Gordon as chief executive of the news organisation.



Colin Parsons, Taylor Woodrow's chairman, announced group profits 68 per cent ahead at £50.8 million

# Britain and Europe link arms on weapons

By ROSS TITMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is campaigning for the establishment of a joint defence procurement agency with leading members of the Western European Union, based upon a collaborative agenda drawn up by France and Germany but widened to embrace programmes being developed by Britain and Italy. The agency would direct spending of tens of billions of pounds upon common weapons systems for Europe's armies, navies and air forces.

Agreement would trigger a rapid consolidation of the European armaments industry. By speeding the adoption of common weapons, it would also facilitate collaboration between European forces in peacekeeping roles and reduce the risk of armed conflict within Europe. The primary goal would be to reduce the

cost of weapons by sharing development costs between nations and extending production runs.

Britain, which rivals France as Europe's biggest weapons maker, has a £10 billion a year weapons industry, and more than 100,000 jobs at stake.

Alarm at the speed and implications of consolidation has prompted a joint inquiry into Britain's defence procurement policies by MPs on the cross-party parliamentary industry and defence committee.

By the time Roger Freeman, the Defence Procurement Minister, gives evidence in May, however, progress towards a common procurement agreement may be well advanced. After lobbying by Malcolm Rifkind, the British Defence Minister, in December, French and Ger-

man defence chiefs agreed last week to open their planned joint procurement agency to British membership.

Mr Freeman told François Léonard and Volker Rübe, the French and German Defence Ministers, at a Paris meeting of the Western European Armaments Group, that Britain was willing to work through a European agency in four key programmes. It is also pushing for membership to be extended to Italy, and other leading arms buyers, in an effort to achieve optimum programme size.

Ministers are also insisting that participation must not be a bar to continued collaboration with the United States, which, although the biggest rival to the European arms industry, is also an important partner for Britain on some

programmes. The largest programme offered by Britain for collaboration within a Euro-agency is the Horizon frigate. The vessel is being jointly developed by Britain, France and Italy in a 22-ship, £6 billion programme. Britain would be the biggest customer, with plans to buy 12 vessels.

Ministry of Defence officials believe that the Eurofighter 2000 programme to build a new fighter plane for the air forces of Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain will not be included. Discussions about workshare arrangements triggered by Germany's decision to reduce its order from 250 aircraft, on a par with that of Britain, to just 140 are making progress and a memorandum of understanding could be signed by the end of April.

## Substantial cuts due at Taylor Woodrow

By ERIC REGULY

TAYLOR WOODROW, the construction, housing and trading group, said yesterday that it would make "substantial cuts" in its British construction business, which weakened in 1993 and shows little sign of turning around.

Tony Palmer, chief executive, said: "All our indications are that volume is deteriorating and the pressure on margins is becoming even more severe with the present oversupply situation."

He would not give details other than to say that operations and overhead costs would have to be heavily cut. Redundancies seem inevitable. The domestic construction division has about 2,500 employees, down from about 3,200 in 1993, when the company's global construction business was restructured.

Taylor Woodrow's construction arm made a profit of £4 million in 1994 (£1.3 million), but only after recording an £8-million, one-off gain on the sale of Eurotunnel shares. The company was a member of the TML Anglo-French consortium that built the tunnel.

The downturn in domestic construction reduced the company's 1994 operating profit to £45.2 million (£47.7 million). Pre-tax profits, however, climbed 68 per cent to £50.8 million on turnover that remained flat at £1.15 billion.

The profits from the Eurotunnel sale and a strong housing market in most of its markets are behind the sharply higher pre-tax earnings. Profits from worldwide housing construction climbed 133 per cent to £21 million.

Taylor Woodrow's trading division, which reported separately for the first time, made profits of £4.7 million (£1.3 million). The subsidiary includes Greenham Trading, which sells industrial clothing and cleaning products.

The final dividend is being raised by 50 per cent, to 1.5p, payable on July 3. The shares closed near their year low, at 115½p, down 7½p.

Times, page 24

## Co-op supply deal profits Hobson

HOBSON, the former shell company that bought the Co-op's food manufacturing business last year, has extended its exclusive contract to supply the Co-op with own-label products until virtually the end of the century. The company announced a £6 million profit on continuing operations, due mainly to the seven-month performance of the Co-op food manufacturing business acquired for £111 million last April, before exceptional costs in the year to December 31.

The result was transformed into a loss of £11.2 million by losses of £2.6 million on discontinued businesses and net exceptional costs of £14.6 million. Andrew Regan, chief executive, said profits and margins were helped by £1 million of cost reductions and that 1995 profits should benefit from the full £7.7 million annual saving. Hobson is paying a final dividend of 0.4p, which is covered 2.5 times out of pre-exceptional earnings from continuing operations. The shares fell 1½p to 25½p.

## Bowthorpe shortlist

BOWTHORPE, the international electronics and electrical group, has drawn up a shortlist of candidates to succeed Dr John Westhead, who retires as chief executive at the end of this year. An appointment is expected within two to three months. Yesterday the company reported 1994 pre-tax profits of £65.9 million (£51.1 million), ahead of City expectations. The company's shares rose 15½p to 316½p. There is a final dividend of 6.29p a share, due July 3, making a total of 8.25p (6.91p). Earnings were 19.87p (17.89p).

## Coats Viyella yarn sale

COATS VIYELLA has sold virtually all its yarns and fabrics division and textured jersey business to a management buyout team backed by Legal & General Ventures for £89.4 million. Coats has agreed to reinvest £9.2 million of the proceeds in return for a 19 per cent shareholding in the new company as well as £12.5 million in loan notes. Jim Harrison, the head of the division, will become chief executive of the newly created business. Neville Bain, Coats' chief executive, said the group would incur a £40 million loss on the disposal.

## Moir quits Jeyes board

JIMMY MOIR, formerly chief executive of Jeyes Group, has resigned as deputy chairman as the household products company, now under new management, disclosed pre-tax losses of £4.2 million for 1994, compared with profits of £1.7 million previously. Losses included exceptional costs of £3.8 million after widespread restructuring. There is no final dividend, reducing the total payout for the year to 3.3p a share from 8.1p. Loss per share was 16.2p (earnings of 6p).

## Brixton disappoints

SHARES in Brixton Estate slipped back yesterday as the company revealed a disappointing 2.9 per cent underlying uplift in the value of its portfolio. The property group, which holds more than 80 per cent of its assets — mainly industrial real estate — in London and the Home Counties, reported a 5 per cent rise in net asset value, to 202p. The full-year dividend rises by 5 per cent to 8.4p after a 7 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £32.6 million.

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.20	2.18
Austria Sch	15.23	15.28
Belgium Fr	48.28	44.80
Canada \$	2.340	2.180
Cyprus Cyp£	0.757	0.728
Denmark Kr	8.33	8.73
Finland Mk	7.28	8.94
France Fr	8.35	7.70
Germany Dm	2.40	2.18
Greece Dr	364.00	388.00
Hong Kong \$	15.58	11.58
Ireland P£	1.08	0.97
Israel	8.275	4.522
Italy Lira	8915.00	2880.00
Japan Yen	187.80	141.50
Malta	0.903	0.548
Netherlands Gld	2.575	2.442
Norway Kr	10.58	8.79
Portugal Esc	247.50	288.00
S Africa Rd	161	8.34
Spain Pta	213.00	200.00
Sweden Kr	12.25	11.48
Switzerland Fr	1.98	1.81
Turkey Lira	refer	84743.0
USA \$	1.985	1.988

Notes: For small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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□ Government seriously wants to sell the nuclear industry □ Prospects for two new banks □ Rewards on the buses

## The real ultimate privatisation

□ HAVING sold the family silver, the Government is now picking out gold teeth from the skeletons in its cupboard. The railways are already being launched along a rickety privatisation track. Now ministers have spotted a glow in the dimmest recesses: the nuclear industry.

The Government's yet-to-be-published nuclear review will reach unodyne conclusions. But the Cabinet has already begun to debate the merits of going for a quick sale of Nuclear Electric, the biggest non-fossil generator. Treasury ministers are understood to be keen: industry ministers, in whom ownership is vested, appear more hesitant.

Britain's nuclear industry consists of four elements. The Atomic Energy Authority is the research agency that designed and developed reactors and built nuclear weapons. Fuel and reprocessing services are provided by BNFL. Generation is carried out by Nuclear Electric and its small Scottish sister, Scottish Nuclear.

Privatisation has already begun, albeit in a small way. The clean-up liabilities of the AEA, around £4 billion, have been vested in a new "government division". The remainder, AEA Technology, will be sold this autumn for around £250 million. To sell the generators, the Gov-

ernment would need to perform a comparable sleight of hand with Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear.

Nuclear Electric has seven Magnox plants which are nearing the end of their useful lives. No one will buy them. Five more modern gas-cooled stations, and the new Sizewell C pressurised water plant, generate twice as much power, and offer the prospect, with a little more cost cutting, of a profitable on-going business. This is what ministers hope to sell.

First catch: decommissioning liabilities. At Nuclear Electric, these are budgeted at £27 billion. The company has ample time and revenue to provide for the newer plants. But if the latter are privatised, how will the £8 billion Magnox decommissioning be funded?

Scottish Nuclear, with two gas-cooled stations and a defunct Magnox plant, has £2 billion of liabilities, of which £1.4 billion relate to the Magnox plant. According to a study by local authorities opposing plans for a new atomic plant at Hinkley Point, if the Magnox liabilities

were transferred to BNFL, as has been proposed, even applying the privatisation proceeds might leave a shortfall of up to £4 billion by 2014.

Second catch: monopoly power. In his evidence to the nuclear review, Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, called for a reshuffle of assets between Scottish Nuclear, which has half the Scottish electricity market, and Nuclear Electric, which has a quarter of the market in England and Wales.

Third catch: most investors are still chary about atomic assets and liabilities. All that glows is not gold.

### Look East from West Yorkshire

□ FEW days herald two giant new banks. In gross balance sheet assets, there is no contest. Tokyo Mitsubishi Bank will weigh in at \$830 billion, the Halifax with the Leeds in its belly at about \$145 billion. In Britain, where the total assets controlled by Barclays are barely \$100 billion higher, the eventual



emergence of the Halifax bank is almost as significant. Both exemplify trends that will change the high street and world markets. Top building societies edged into gaps left by the clearers. Their consolidation went too far and ambition was transferred to a wider stage. Only Lloyds, which saw the perils early and rationalised almost to excess, has focused back on personal loans via the Cheltenham & Gloucester. The enlarged Halifax will be wise to follow the example of Abbey National, which pioneered conversion to bank status, rather than TSB, which started by trying to ape those it foolishly thought its betters. Even so, the temptations for Halifax will be great if the

housing market, where it will be by far the biggest lender, continues to stagnate. The discipline of constant cost-cutting is less fun, and less creative, than the lure of expansive diversification. Big as the Halifax bank will be, its millions of prospective small shareholders should hope that it sticks to providing products and services for retail customers.

A swift glance at the prospective TMB should convince Halifax's sensible board of caution's continuing virtues. In part, banks are bigger in Japan because they play a bigger role in the domestic economy. This merger may not be born of weakness. As Mitsubishi realised, however, balance sheet size is not enough to play effectively on the world stage. Bank of Tokyo found that domestic bulk was still necessary, even if its foreign focus helped during Japan's financial subsidence.

If TMB is to set the standard for a Japanese universal bank, it will be a challenging one for European and American rivals, many of which have been stuck in retrenchment. For those in the middle, including independent

British merchant banks and clearers such as NatWest, tensions will surely grow between caution and ambition.

### Stick with the workers

□ EMPLOYEE buyouts are both the least controversial and the most heart-warming variant of privatisation. As the pioneering work at the National Freight Consortium showed, they can also provide much stronger and more productive motivation throughout an organisation than any munificent share options for executive directors. Few will begrudge the £38,000 share and cash packages that ordinary employees in West Midlands Travel should soon be able to cash, or even the much greater rewards for WMT's chairman, even though these might imply an original undervaluation more spectacular than at any privatised utility.

Unfortunately, as so often, these sums only become apparent when a takeover heralds the end of this system of truly

popular capitalism. Even NFC has become more and more a conventional quoted company, partly to finance its ambitions and partly to satisfy its new institutional shareholders.

Evidently, this need not happen. The John Lewis Partnership has demonstrated that an employee-owned business can out-grow its competitors by reinvesting profits, even if it has proved the tortoise that beat many more flashy hares of the department store business.

If WMT's share-owning employees choose to stay with National Express, they will control a goodly chunk of it. The enlarged company would do well to adopt this culture rather than let it fade into extinction.

### Fantasy banking

□ AHEAD of the Federal Reserve's meeting, pollsters found no economist expecting a rate rise. Evidently, central banks could ditch currency speculators if they wanted to. A rise in Fed rates, followed by a jump in Japan's discount rate and a cut in Germany's, would pave the way for co-ordinated but randomly computer-generated — movements over the next year. The ensuing confusion should soon make people ignore short-term interest rates and do no harm at all to the world economy.



Tasty figures: Bernard Leigh, group finance director of Iceland Group, left, and Malcolm Walker, the chairman

## Iceland warms to frozen foods again

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

ICELAND Group, the supermarket chain, is to put renewed emphasis on its core frozen foods business as part of its strategy of becoming the most profitable specialist retailer in the industry.

Malcolm Walker, the chairman, admitted that the group had neglected its frozen foods side in recent years as it sought to build up a presence in fresh and chilled foods. "We took our eye off the ball," he said.

"The group launched a total of just 35 new frozen products last year, its lowest number in recent history. This year it plans to raise the status of frozen foods with 250 new product launches. Mr Walker

denied it was a U-turn, saying it was more a case of fine tuning. He insisted that Iceland had a secure niche and was not being squeezed by the leading supermarkets at one end and the discounters at the other.

His remarks came as the group unveiled an 8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £70.2 million, compared with £65.2 million in the year to December 31. Total sales rose by 10 per cent, although like-for-like growth was flat.

The final dividend is lifted to 2.88p (2.60p), making a total payout to shareholders of 4.20p, compared with 3.80p last time. The dividend will be paid on May 26.

## Marley acquires Syroco for \$140m

By CARL MORTSHED

MARLEY, a company best known for its tiles and concrete blocks, is descending from the roof to the patio, acquiring America's largest maker of plastic garden furniture for \$140 million in cash.

Marley is buying Syroco, which makes injection-moulded resin furniture and sells the products through mass-market retailers such as Walmart and K-mart across the United States.

Syroco has a 25 per cent share of what it calls the casual resin furniture market, a sector currently worth \$330 million and consisting of monobloc stacking chairs, sunlounges, tables and children's furniture. The company

also makes aluminium furniture.

Marley is raising £51.8 million in a one-for-six rights issue at 112p to help fund the deal. David Tranel, chief executive, concedes that Syroco will have a slightly dilutive effect on Marley's earnings in 1995, but that benefits will accrue.

Syroco uses the same injection-moulding technology as Marley's plastic operations and made operating profits of \$16.1 million in 1994 on sales of \$95.5 million. Marley warned that higher raw material costs could affect Syroco's margins in 1995.

Tempus, page 24

## Oriana will sail on time, says Lord Sterling

By MARTIN WALLER

THE *Oriana*, the latest addition to P&O's cruise fleet, will sail out of Southampton on her maiden voyage a week on Sunday in spite of the delays that have dogged her delivery, Lord Sterling, P&O's chairman, has promised.

The 69,000-tonne *Oriana* is in the North Sea undergoing trials and the builder, the Meyer Werft yard in northern Germany, has said delivery will be delayed by bad weather and propeller damage.

Lord Sterling said: "As far as the yard is concerned, they will deliver the ship at the end of this week." This would leave enough time for the official naming of the ship by the Queen a week on Thursday.

P&O says bookings are in line with expectations and are unaffected by the QE2 debacle, when the Trafalgar House flagship put to sea before a refit had been finished.

Lord Sterling was announcing full-year figures for 1994 that showed strong profit ad-

vances across the shipping-to-construction group, although he was forced to warn shareholders of the forthcoming impact of the Channel Tunnel on revenues once the latter is fully operational this summer, and of the impact if the dollar remains weak this year.

He said: "We expect the operation of the Channel Tunnel to lead to some reduction in the earnings of our ferries division, but the performance of our other divisions to move further ahead."

He said while it would be foolish not to anticipate some loss of profits from ferries in the next two to three years, strong market growth meant room for both ferries and the tunnel. "Nobody knows as yet quite how the market is going to develop."

But the Tunnel's £700 million of debt made the project more susceptible than P&O to falling revenues. "If the Tunnel wanted to create a price war in due course, they are

aware more than anybody that they are the ones who would be hit the hardest."

P&O made pre-tax profits of £349.5 million in 1994, a fall from a reported figure of £520.6 million that included substantial one-off earnings from disposals. The directly-comparable figure, therefore, is of profits of £341.4 million that rose from £242.2 million last time.

A 17p final dividend makes a total unchanged at 30.5p, covered by headline earnings up by 10p to 37.6p.

The sharpest rises in operating profits among the main divisions came from ferries, 49 per cent higher at £113.9 million, and containers, 50 per cent up at £63.2 million.

Bovis Homes managed an 18 per cent rise to £13.2 million, and Lord Sterling said the British housebuilding market was so far this year "substantially up" on the start of 1994.

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## Hickson hit by soap wars

Hickson, the speciality chemicals group, said its profits for last year were damaged by the soap wars between Unilever and Procter & Gamble.

Last year Unilever stopped buying manganese catalyst, the controversial ingredient in the Persil Power detergent made by Hickson's Pharmachem unit. The company said the loss of this business would knock £8 million off potential profits in 1995 and 1996, which would be hard to make up from elsewhere.

Pre-tax profits were 13 per cent lower at £19.2 million. The final dividend has been cut by 3p to 2.15p, payable on June 12, making a full dividend of 5p, down from 8p in 1993. Earnings per share were 8.9p.

### Cole's cost

Manchester United's purchase of footballer Andy Cole from Newcastle United for £6.25 million — a British record transfer fee — has hit half-time profits.

In the six months to January 31, pre-tax profits eased to £7.3 million from £7.6 million. Profits were struck after net transfer expenditure of £3.9 million, compared with income of £800,000 previously.

At the operating level profits rose sharply to £10.8 million from £6.6 million. Turnover advanced to £36.4 million from £22.8 million. Earnings of 8.3p a share compared with 8.6p previously. The interim dividend is lifted to 1.4p a share, due May 17, from 1.3p. The shares rose 4p to 129p.

### Lending fall

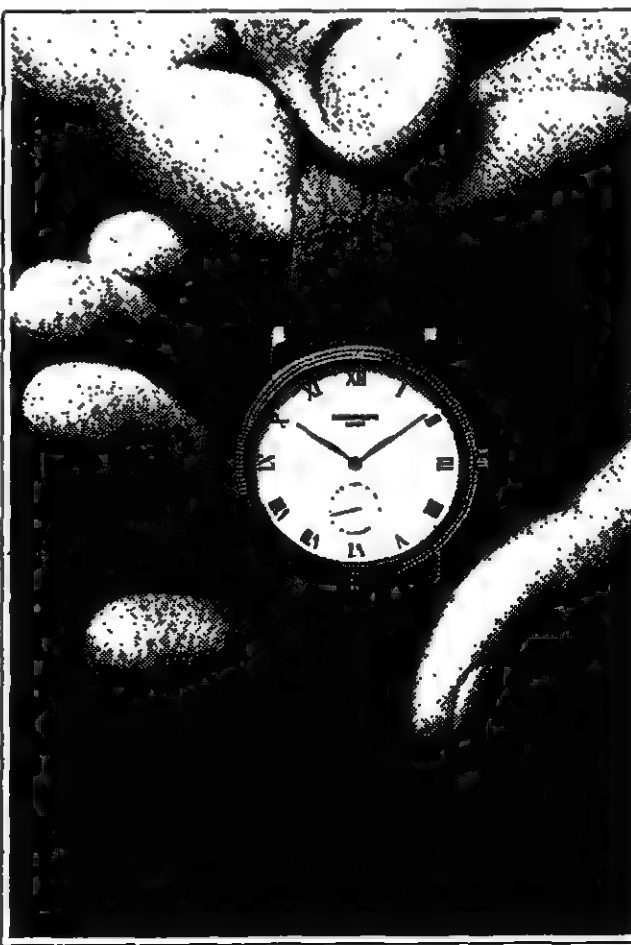
British bank mortgage lending fell in February, a development which indicated that confidence in the housing market remains low, according to the British Bankers' Association.

Gross lending was £1.11 billion in February, 6 per cent down on the £1.18 billion lent in January. Net lending, which is seasonally adjusted, fell further to £597 million in February from £654 million in January.

### Norwich direct

Norwich Union, Britain's biggest motor insurer, will next month launch a pilot scheme to sell motor and household insurance direct to customers using Yellow Pages. Sales of life policies are slumping.

For more than a century and a half, Patek Philippe has been known as the finest watch in the world. The reason is very simple. It is made differently. It is made using skills and techniques that others have lost or forgotten. It is made with attention to detail very few people would notice. It is made, we have to admit, with a total disregard for time. If



a particular Patek Philippe movement requires four years of continuous work to bring to absolute perfection, we will take four years. The result will be a watch that is unlike any other. A watch that conveys quality from first glance and first touch. A watch with a distinction: generation after generation it has been worn, loved and collected by those who are very difficult to please; those who will only accept the best. For the day that you take delivery of your Patek Philippe, you will have acquired the best. Your watch will be a masterpiece, quietly reflecting your own values. A watch that was made to be treasured.



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Watches of Switzerland - Selected Branches Nationwide

## Makro move to take control spurned

## Nurdin rejects merger offer

NURDIN & PEACOCK yesterday firmly rejected an offer by SHV Makro, the Dutch group, for the two companies to merge their UK cash and carry operations. (Susan Gilchrist writes)

SHV, which has a 14 per cent shareholding in N&P, had proposed that the British firm should give it a majority stake in exchange for SHV's UK business. It has also offered a special dividend of 19p a share as an inducement to other shareholders.

Richard Fulford, N&P's chairman, dismissed SHV's approach as an attempt to acquire control of the group without the payment of a without premium. "It is not in the interests of our shareholders to become minority shareholders in a company controlled by a private entity," Mr Fulford said he had the back-

ing of the Peacock family who own about 30 per cent of the shares. SHV has ruled out a full bid. Folkert Schukken, its chairman, said the group was unwilling to commit large sums to the UK market when



Fulford: dismissive

it had a number of expansion opportunities overseas. Nevertheless, analysts believe N&P is still vulnerable to an outside predator. One said: "This effectively puts them into play." N&P's share price jumped 12p to 183p.

N&P and SHV are the second and third largest players behind Booker in the UK cash and carry market. SHV believes combining the two businesses would save £15 million a year and provide more potent opposition to the supermarkets.

The development comes after a difficult period for N&P. In January the group gave warning that profits for 1994 would be halved from the £32 million made in 1993 and a week ago it announced it was abandoning Cargo Club, its warehouse club format.



# Vickers lightens gloom as profit expectations rise

SHARES in Vickers, the Rolls-Royce cars-to-Challenger tanks engineering group, bucked the gloomy market trend, with healthy demand developing after Henderson Crosthwaite recommended buying the shares and upgraded its profits expectations.

Henderson says strong recovery is taking place under the new management team, and has lifted its 1995 and 1996 profit forecasts by £5 million to £70 million and £85 million respectively, while 1997's potential pre-tax profits are seen at about £100 million. Vickers, which is due to host a one-day analysts' visit to its Kalmewa marine propulsion operation in Sweden next Monday, ended 3p higher at 184p.

Meanwhile, shares drifted lower, in spite of the Bank of England Governor's hint that he is unlikely to press for a rise in interest rates at his meeting with the Chancellor next week. Traders were nervous before the Federal Open Markets Committee meeting in America to discuss US interest rate policy and tomorrow's Bundesbank council meeting on German rates.

There was light profit-taking and a technical mark-down in the wake of a sharp fall in the futures market. A negative start to trading on Wall Street further depressed sentiment in London, with shares ending near their lows.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 21.5 points lower at 3,128.3. Second-liners saw more limited falls, with the FT-SE 250 index down 3.7 to 3,416.2. Volume, again swollen by bed-and-breakfast deals before the end of the quarter this week, reached 749 million shares. The bulk of activity was dominated by results and trading statements.

Builders were in the spotlight after Marley unveiled a £52 million one-for-five rights issue, at 112p a share, to part-finance the £87.7 million acquisition of Syroco, an American garden furniture group. Marley shares fell 11p to 122p.

Elsewhere, shares in Taylor Woodrow, the construction, property and housing group, slid 7p to 115p as it disappointed the market in spite of higher full-year profits after cautious noises on deteriorating volume in UK construction. But the group is relatively cheerful on the housing market, which barrat



Trevor Smallwood of Badgerline reported top-deck profits

Developments rose 7p to 185p, Berkeley Group, 3p to 361p, Bryant, 5p to 133p, and Wilson Connolly, 4p to 157p. Bowthorpe rose 15p to 316p after a better-than-expected 29 per cent jump in 1994 profits.

Elsewhere, shares in AAH, the drug retailer and wholesaler, added 6p to 440p, giving a two-day gain of 9p. Specula-

coach operator chaired by Trevor Smallwood, firm 2p to 135p after acquisitions and improved margins helped it drive to bigger full-year profits.

Hickson International, the specialty chemicals group, added 4p to 131p after the company cut its final dividend to 2.15p (5.15p), giving 8p (8p) for the year, as the impact of

the "soap wars" eroded 1994 profits. Hickson's PharmaChem operation, which developed a new bleach activator for Unilever's Persil brand, has been hit by the prolonged battle between Unilever, up 5p to £12.11, and Procter & Gamble. The results were accompanied by news of the departure of Michael Rowley as finance director.

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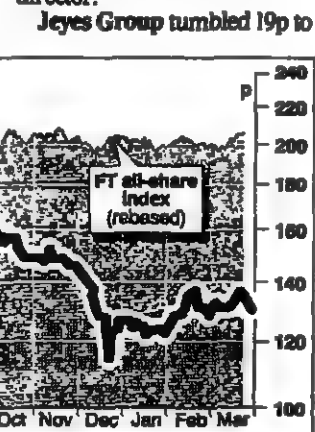
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145p after it accompanied a slide into the red with news that Jimmy Moir, its former chief executive, has resigned as non-executive chairman.

Guinness fell 9p to 446p after reports of profit-taking and switching into Grand Metropolitan, unchanged at 391p. There was also evidence of profit-taking and American selling at SmithKline Beecham, 12p lower at 501p.

Legal & General firmed 1p to 470p, with Flemings said to be advising a switch into L&G from Prudential, unchanged at 318p.

Nurdin & Peacock jumped 12p to 183p as it emerged that SHV Makro, the Dutch operator of the Makro cash and carry chain, had approached the discount food retailer in January with a view to a reverse takeover. Nurdin said the terms of the proposed deal were unacceptable, but added that if Makro was serious, it would consider any new proposals.

Ischague recovered some of Monday's falls, with the shares adding 1p to 289p, on heavy volume of 4.68 million shares, as income funds were attracted to the yield of almost 7 per cent and vague bid talk emerged after recent poor results.

Fisons were also a good market, adding 7p to 172p, on volume of 3.64 million shares, amid renewed bid talk and hopes of further good news.

Speculative interest lifted Lasso 2p to 165p, while Enterprise, which retains a 9.8 per cent stake since its failed bid last year, added 2p to 397p.

Newcomer Expro International, which specialises in oilfield services, ended unchanged at 175p.

GILT-EDGED: Gilts gradually drifted lower with weaker overseas bond markets, though losses were extended after stronger than expected US consumer confidence figures. Most investors remained on the sidelines before this morning's £2 billion auction of Treasury 8 per cent 2015.

The June long gilt fell 4p to £103, on volume of 28,000 contracts. Among conventional stocks, losses extended to 4p for longer-dated issues, while index-linked lost up to 4p.

NEW YORK: At midday, the Dow Jones Industrial average was 15.56 points lower at 4,141.78.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	4141.78 (-15.56)
S&P Composite	502.99 (-0.71)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	10081.73 (-585.48)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	8827.95 (-140.39)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	392.77 (-0.47)
Sydney:	
ASX	1899.7 (-9.11)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	1910.96 (-35.94)
Singapore:	
SEAC	2104.24 (-13.67)
Brussels:	
General	661.26 (-8.15)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1837.19 (-1.09)
Zurich:	
SIX	596.50 (-2.20)
London:	
FT 100	3128.3 (-21.5)
FT 250	3416.2 (-3.7)
FT-SE 100	1552.1 (-4.8)
FT-SE 250	1362.45 (-12.2)
FT A-Share	1533.00 (-7.41)
FT Non Financials	1652.49 (-6.70)
FT Financials	110.48 (-0.03)
FT Govt Secs	91.79 (-0.30)
Jangmans	36.70
SEAD Volume	79.0m
UK (Financial)	147.0 (+0.04)
US\$	1.6005 (+0.0005)
German Mark	2.2404 (-0.0070)
Exchange Index	85.4 (Index)
Bank of England official base rate	1.2501
ESDEV	1.0358
RPI	148.9 Feb (3.7%) Jan 1997=100

## RECENT ISSUES

Albright & Wilson (150)	163	-2
Beale	180	...
Collegiate	141	...
Dailywin (128)	130	...
Dunelmack (130)	136	...
Expro Int'l (175)	175	...
Guinness (446)	446	...
Golden Rose Cms (139)	119	...
HTR Inc/Gth Split (100)	101	...
Imco-Split Div Pt (100)	104	...
Inv Capital Wts	19	...
Inv Tr of Inv Tss	84	...
Inv Tr of Inv Tss Wts	56	...
Melrose Energy Wts	3	...
Mont UK Smr Co's (100)	95	...
-dltw- Wts	43	...
Natl Power (p/p) (476)	164	-2
PowerGen (p/p) (512)	184	-2
Schridt Inc Gwth Fd US	517	+3
Supermarket Group (50)	43	...
Supermarket Wts	7	...
Thruo Dual Zero Div Pt	102	...
Zoetec (145)	175	...

## HIGHTS ISSUES

Accord Computer n/p (80)	5	...
Beaufort n/p (28)	4	...
Honors Sm App n/p (80)	34	...
Rhino Group n/p (8)	1	...
Unit Group n/p (39)	1	...

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Inchcape	289p (+11p)
Anticomm	278p (+15p)
Inf Bus Comm	244p (+9p)
FALLS:	
Courtauld	444p (-10p)
BICC	332p (-8p)
Phoneline	237p (-18p)
Tadpole Tech	417p (-12p)
Telesec	407p (-10p)
British Aerospace	487p (-8p)
Siebs	554p (-9p)
GKN	805p (-10p)
Amersham	845p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 27

# TEMPUS

## Taylor slims down

TAYLOR WOODROW yesterday gave a good imitation of an estate agent puffing up the merits of the fitted kitchen and carpets to a homebuyer while rain pours through gaping holes in the ceiling. Last year, the company made money from almost everything except construction and investors are left with the impression that the company would gladly leave the FT-Accuracies construction sector if it were possible to hide £600 million of revenue.

Not every construction contract is loss-making and Taylor is earning money overseas. That accounts for only £90 million of the business and the market was given a rude jolt when the company booked £8 million of construction profit from the sale of its Eurotunnel shares. The company piled on further gloom by announcing that it was pulling back further from UK construction.

P&O will be sailing through choppy waters over the next few months with the Channel Tunnel up and running, a point made explicit with the full-year figures yesterday. The group has the advantage of more flexibility than the hopelessly debt-burdened Tunnel operator, but Lord Sterling, the P&O chairman, was keeping his cards close to his chest about future strategy yesterday.

The options are to switch ships away from cross-Channel routes or to aggressively undercut Eurotunnel on price. To an extent the latter is already happening, with special offers available to most passengers, but the true test will come once the peak summer season coincides with the full operation of the Tunnel. The final option is to accept some unspecified loss

of volume to the Tunnel and press ahead in the hope that the various governments will permit a cosy deal between the cross-Channel ferry operators to cut capacity once the damage from the Tunnel can be quantified.

All this has overshadowed a set of figures that showed improvements in trading pretty well across the board.

THE harshest judgment the City can make on a director's performance is to lift the share price when he is ousted. Sir Ronald Miller, former chairman of Dawson International, and Nick Kuensberg, its former managing director, now find themselves in precisely that unenviable position. At 10p the shares are still well below their 235p high, but they are back on an upward trend for the first time in many months, suggesting the market would have welcomed speedier action from the board.

The share price rose in spite of bad news elsewhere. Shareholders hoping last year's massive £50 million provision and £56 million goodwill write-off would be the end of it are proved sadly mistaken. Pringle of Scotland, a usually solid performer, is set to make an unexpected loss, and the US bathroom accessories business continues to hemorrhage

money. It is now back up for sale, but given that Dawson failed to find a buyer willing to pay a decent price six months ago, there seems little reason why it should do so now and further provisions look inevitable.

Dawson may have reached the nadir of its fortunes, but, with raw material prices still rising, and competition, particularly from China, intensifying, the way back looks long and arduous.

MARLEY AFTER years shifting surplus bricks, blocks and roof tiles through the recession, Marley's heavy-side operations started making good profits last year and the market was expecting Marley to bolt a new company on to a cleaned-up balance sheet. The question is whether Syroco, the injection moulded garden furniture maker is the ideal candidate.

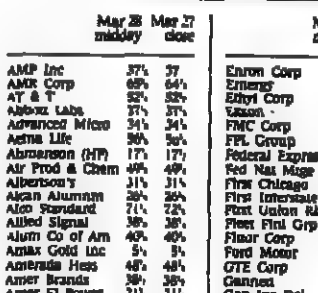
Syroco was highly profitable last year, earning net

margins of 17 per cent which could increase to 18 after adding back some admin costs. Unfortunately, Syroco is about to suffer a profit shock due to a 50 per cent rise in the price of polypropylene resin, the principal raw material, and the market estimates the gross margin could fall from 33 per cent to 25 per cent which could take net margins down to 15 per cent. Marley reckons this will be a temporary setback to a business which is growing fast.

Doubtless, raw material prices will settle down, but Marley may find it trickier to recover the whole of the lost margin. A bigger question is whether a company with its roots in commodity building materials is comfortable marketing fashionable sunloungers. In Europe, plastic furniture is a mature sector with low entry barriers. The US could follow suit, causing Syroco to lose its high margins and leaving Marley sitting with a headache on its sunlounger.

Closing Prices Page 27

## CRUISE CONTROL



## COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE				
COCOA				
Mar	945-947	May	1019-1021	
Jul	945-944	Jul	1019-1021	
Sep	945-947	Sep	1043-1046	
Nov	947	Nov	1057-1051	
Dec	951-969			
Jan	1009-1037	Volume	4135	
ROBUSTA COFFEE A				
Mar	2955-2957	May	2901-2900	
Jul	3011-3010	Jul	2980-2985	
Sep	2955-2957	Nov	2980-2985	
Dec	2940-2932	Volume	2862	
WHITE SUGAR (FOB)				
Runners		Dec	3210-3214	
Mar	3210-3210	Mar	3170-3174	
May	3170-3177	May	3173-3174	
Jul	3205-3204	Jul	3151-3123	
Sep	3123-3134	Volume	902	
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION				
Average fattest prices at representative				
slaughtered on March 27				
(g/100 lb)	£/lb	Sheep	Cattle	
Grass	12.0	120-130	120-130	
Wool	-0.20	-0.20	-0.20	
English/Wales	91.44	120-64	123.52	
France	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Germany	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Italy	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Spain	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Sweden	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Switzerland	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Belgium	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Netherlands	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Denmark	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Poland	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Czech Republic	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Slovak Republic	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Hungary	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Slovenia	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Croatia	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Serbia	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Montenegro	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Albania	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Macedonia	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Bulgaria	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Romania	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Greece	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Turkey	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Israel	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Jordan	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Lebanon	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Syria	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Yemen	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Saudi Arabia	91.44	120-64	123.52	
UAE	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Qatar	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Oman	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Yemen	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Somalia	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Ethiopia	91.44	120-64	123.52	
DRC	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Congo	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Angola	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Mozambique	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Malawi	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Zambia	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Botswana	91.44	120-64	123.52	
South Africa	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Swaziland	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Lesotho	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Namibia	91.44	120-64	123.52	
South Africa	91.44	120-64	123.52	
Botswana	91.44	120-64	123.52	
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THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

## Knocking the NEDs

THOSE in, or looking for, "little jobs" — City short-hand courtesy of Ed Wallis of PowerGen for posts as non-executive directors (NEDs) — could well find their corporate toes rudely trodden on by today's issue of *The Price Waterhouse Corporate Register* from Hemmington Scott Publishing. Dr Martin Conyon, a senior research fellow at the Centre for Corporate Strategy and Change at Warwick University, in qualifying comments, finds that NEDs are apparently doing little to stem high pay awards in boardrooms, and deduces from one set of data that the more NEDs there are on a board, the more pay there is for top directors. He says: "Such an observation does not easily square with the notion that NEDs are the guardians of shareholder interests in the boardroom." Adopting Cadbury-style best practice structures does not automatically result in superior corporate performance, he adds. The Register notes that the number of directors collecting over £1 million a year has risen from 12 last March to a current 16, that the average salary for the top 150 highest paid directors in the UK is £738,940, a 9.1 per cent increase on figures in the September survey, and that in spite of increased political attention "there is little sign of meaningful pay restraint by top UK directors". In one passage, he calls into question the effectiveness of NEDs. Ouch!

## BUILDING SOCIETY



"Shares in two years' time — meanwhile, here are your bank charges."

## Top honours

IT was a day of recognition and promotion yesterday. Heidi Hutter, 37, an actress by training, an expert on pollution and asbestos risks, and director of the Equitas project at Lloyd's of London, was named "Insurance Woman of the Year" by APIW, the US professional association for women. And Jeffrey Herbert, currently chief executive of Charter, was given early warning to order a chairman's hat, though told he may only don it after the 1996 annual meeting when Sir Michael Edwards retires as Charter's chairman.

## Who's for tennis?

LONDON based companies in the 0171 and 0181 telephone areas have until Friday to grab their rackets and register their entry for the 1995 Nomura Inter-Company Tennis Challenge, which annually attracts more than 250 companies. The event, open to all standards and sanctioned by the Lawn Tennis Association, is held between May and October. Previous winners were the Old Young Ladies from the Old Young Ladies of Threadneedle Street in 1990 and 1991, and for the past three years, the women from Barclays Bank. In the 1994 men's finals, it was the chaps from Lehman Brothers who carried off the cup.

SIGN seen in Chichester: Bank job wanted. Alas, no mistress to support.

COLIN CAMPBELL

## Creating a bank bigger than UK Big Four combined

Japan's new giant bank can't throw its weight around abroad, says Patricia Tehan



Tsukuru Takagaki, left, Bank of Tokyo president, and Tsuneo Wakai, Mitsubishi Bank president, yesterday announcing a basic agreement to form the world's largest bank by merging Mitsubishi, top, and Bank of Tokyo

Stock market rumours very rarely turn into reality, so it was with some amazement yesterday that the Japanese financial community watched as Mitsubishi Bank and Bank of Tokyo announced their plans to merge and become the biggest bank in the world.

Over the past five years, the two have been the subject of merger rumours on a regular basis. In retrospect, it is easy to say that someone should have been suspicious about the absence of such talk in the past few months.

Mitsubishi Bank was already bigger than any other non-Japanese bank, and sixth biggest in Japan and in the world in terms of gross assets, with Bank of Tokyo eighth largest in Japan and 19th largest in world terms.

The hindrance in Mitsubishi's dream of becoming a global bank is its concentration on domestic banking.

The two banks were forced to confirm their plans to merge yesterday after a series of confused messages, including initial denials from them, confirmation from the Bank of Japan and confusion from the Japanese Finance Minister. At a hastily convened press conference in Tokyo, Tsuneo Wakai, Mitsubishi's president, said that details of the planned merger had not yet been decided. Neither Mr Wakai nor Tsukuru Takagaki, Bank of Tokyo president, gave a specific date or financial terms for the merger, though Mr Wakai did say that they would like to merge by April 1996 at the latest.

Mr Wakai said that the banks had decided to merge because each could provide the other with strengths they needed to grow. And Mr Takagaki said that changes financial markets had made Bank of Japan think about a merger. He said: "Looking at changes in the world and Japan, and looking at the 21st century, we wanted to create a new structure."

The reaction of the international banking community was that the planned merger is a domestic Japanese issue. Although it would create the world's largest bank in terms of gross assets, it raises "the question of what is more important — size or profitability", said David Marshall, a director of IBCA, the credit rating agency.

The new "Tokyo Mitsubishi Bank", as it has been dubbed by Tokyo's financial community, would dwarf competitors. Its asset base will be bigger than that of the big four UK clearing banks combined. If merged, the two would have assets of ¥73 trillion (£508 billion), based on figures for the half year to September 30. That would make it 35 per cent bigger than its nearest rival, Sakura Bank with ¥54 billion assets.

Mr Marshall said that the closest non-Japanese bank in world rankings, based on financial results for the year to March 1994, would be Credit Lyonnais, the French banking group, which was ninth-biggest in the world, with assets of

\$330 billion, followed by Deutsche Bank in 11th place with assets of \$317 billion. HSBC, which includes Midland Bank and Hongkong Bank, would be the closest British banking group, with assets of \$305 billion. Barclays would be 22nd with total assets of \$241 billion.

Despite its size, Tokyo Mitsubishi Bank is unlikely to be turning its sights on improving its competitive position overseas.

The news sent shivers down the spines of competitors, including Sakura Bank, Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, Sumitomo Bank, Fuji Bank and Sanwa Bank. However, there are unlikely to be any monopoly issues, since Mitsubishi has only a 6 per cent share of the domestic market and the combined entity will have 9 per cent. There are another five banks of similar size to Mitsubishi.

Mark Faulkner, an analyst for SG Warburg in Tokyo, said that a merger would take the two way ahead of their Japanese competitors "in terms of size and breadth of product range".

Mr Faulkner said: "We are not talking about businesses that would benefit from being severely restructured or consolidated. They fit together as very good separate entities. They complement each other. It is not a

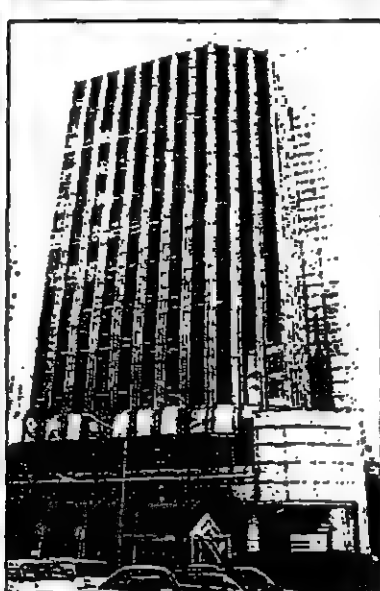
defensive, consolidation merger."

The most obvious overlap is in the US where both have affiliate banks in California. They said yesterday that they had not decided what to do with Mitsubishi's affiliate Bank of California and Bank of Tokyo's affiliate Union Bank.

Otherwise, the make-up of their businesses is quite different. Given the lack of significant crossover in their businesses, the integration of the two may look straightforward. However, they both have strong corporate cultures and personality and culture clashes are expected.

Bank of Tokyo was formally established in 1946, after taking over Yokohama Specie Bank. It is the specialist foreign exchange and trade finance bank in Japan, with the most extensive offshore network among Japan's banks. More than 70 per cent of its gross profits come from its international business and, as a result, it has only a minor domestic bad-debt exposure.

Mitsubishi, established in 1880, is the main bank to the Mitsubishi group of companies, which account for an estimated 10 per cent of Japan's gross domestic product. Its banking business is loan and asset-driven, providing



investment capital finance for Japanese companies, with 80 per cent of gross profits coming from Japanese operations. It funds 80 per cent of its business through deposits, and 24 per cent of its loans are to consumers. This compares with 50 per cent of Bank of Tokyo's funds coming from deposits and 1 per cent of loans to individuals.

In spite of the size of the planned new banking giant, it is unlikely to pose a huge threat to international banking groups. It will be comfortably, but not overtly well capitalised, with the merged group having a total capital ratio of about 9 per cent, against well over 10 per cent for US banks.

The Japanese banks have learnt their lesson from the 1980s, when, buoyed by large savings surpluses, they threw excess capital at borrowers at home and abroad, joining any banking consortium, and forcing lending margins down.

This merger will give a clear advantage at home. On a global scale, Tokyo Mitsubishi Bank will certainly be enormous in terms of assets, but its ability to lend will be constrained by its depleted capital. It would have to generate much new capital, in difficult, some would say stagnant, market conditions, to attain the capital adequacy of overseas rivals.



ANTHONY HARRIS

## Warning signs of a world slowdown

The world economy has just enjoyed a boom that hardly anyone forecast but most forecasters have taken it as a sign of things to come. Projections for 1995-97 are generally bullish. But if the models were wrong once, are they wrong again? That is the warning given this week by two very different forecasting organisations — Robert Fleming, an investment bank with worldwide links, and Lombard Street Research, Professor Tim Congdon's City think-tank. Both expect the slowdown to come much sooner than 1997-98, and they are to be taken seriously, because both start from what is still a rare piece of hindsight: an explanation of the boom.

On conventional reasoning, the boom can never have happened. Recoveries require a stimulus either a fiscal policy relaxation, or a monetary boost. But almost every government in the world is trying to reduce budget deficits; the only exception has been Japan, the one country that has not enjoyed a recovery. Monetary policy was sharply relaxed in intention, at least, with interest rate cuts in the early 1990s; though it has been tightened in the last year. But on the normal measure of results, the growth of the money supply, nothing happened. So where was the stimulus?

Both Flemings and Lombard Street find explanations in the capital markets, though they are somewhat different. Lombard Street is in a bit of a bind: Congdon is a broad money man, so his leading indicators, which stress the growth of real broad money, never did forecast the recovery. But his associate Brian Reading, a keen student of world trade, points out that the big stimulus came from exports to emerging economies.

Low returns on domestic savings led US institutions, in particular, to look abroad for assets. Thanks to this new global capital mobility, the emerging economies got the first benefit of easy money. A huge volume of direct and portfolio investment enabled them to build up their investments or, fatally in the case of Mexico, to finance consumer imports. For the first time, therefore, they boomed while the developed world slumped, and they led the recovery. But the Mexican fiasco, and the consequent retreat of capital values in emerging economies, has ended this chapter. They will now lead the way down.

The Fleming analysis starts from credit, not money. A normal cyclical recovery, it argues, is led by rising bank credit, the monetary tide that floats all boats. Property and asset values, consumer spending, incomes and prices are all driven up; the music stops when inflation begins to get out of hand. But this time bank lending has stagnated (except in the US), property values and prices have remained subdued, and consumers (except in the US) have remained depressed. The result, almost everywhere, including the US, is joyless prosperity. Except in corporate boardrooms.

Fleming lists capital issues, especially in the global bond market, and shows that the big beneficiaries of low interest rates have been companies, whose balance sheets have been transformed. Thanks to a huge transfer from household liquidity to corporate accounts, they have been able to finance an investment boom not only in the emerging economies, but in the developed world. But much of this has been aimed at cost-cutting: consumers, already over-borrowed, have seen sluggish income growth and discouraging job prospects. Result: corporations have in effect taken a high dive into a shallow pool. Forget short capacity: output will be constrained by shortage of consumer demand. Investment will subside, and activity with it. The only good news in this scenario is that the feared rise in inflation will never happen.

These financial stories are not necessarily true, but they are plausible — certainly more plausible than the conventional hymn to the joys of free trade. And remember that world tidal shifts are not only generally a surprise in timing; they are stronger than anyone expects.

## Sarah Bagnall on the difficulty of breaking into film

## Two film-makers and a problem

The British film industry has had more comebacks than Frank Sinatra. But as the main Oscars elude the Brits there is little evidence that the latest flurry of activity will prove any more successful than the myriad of revivals of the past.

After the undeniable box office success of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, securing film finance may be easier for a select handful but for the mass of up and coming film-makers the situation is as unpromising as before.

In France producers of all feature-length films have to budget in the cost of a short film. These 15-minute escapades not only give the opportunity for the hopefuls to cut their teeth but also to learn from the industry's best and established film-makers.

Unfortunately this philanthropic attitude does not cross the Channel. The reasons are many — but the key ones are lack of funding and an absence of financial incentive for cinemas to run short films. As Francesca Brill, writer and director, and Sandra Yarwood, producer, discovered making a short film is no easy task. Brill says *Expecting*, their film, is a 15-minute miracle.

"It took two years from start to finish," says Brill, "and then it was a near thing."

There are limited sources of official funding for "shorts," as they are known in the industry. Each year bodies such as Channel 4, The British Film Institute, BBC and The London Production Fund finance a total of about 40 short films. This is a far cry from the tens of thousands of commercials made in a year, and at an average cost of £85,000, the



Great expectations: Francesca Brill, left, and Sandra Yarwood, the film-makers

shorts are significantly cheaper.

One of the two years was spent trying to access this limited pot of official funding. "We submitted the script to the funding bodies in January 1994 and it was shortlisted for both the BFI's New Directors Scheme and Channel 4's *Short and Curly*," says Yarwood. Finally in December 1993 they heard they had failed in their bid for funding — it had taken a year to decide on 15 minutes of footage.

Channel 4 cited Brill's lack

of directing experience as the main reason for rejecting the script. As Yarwood says: "It's a *Catch-22* situation. Unless you can afford to go to film school there are few chances for the less experienced to get a chance."

After the rejection, the two set about wooing funds from elsewhere but found it was tougher than expected. "It is a terrible indictment on the British film industry that a script with pedigree fails to get financial

support from within the industry," says Brill. "We got very depressed."

In desperation, they decided to cut the original budget from £80,000 to £14,000. "That meant we weren't paying anyone anything. We were just budgeting for the technical costs," says Brill.

A business plan was drawn up and sent to anyone the couple felt might be useful. Instead of trying to sell the film as a money-spinning venture, they spelt out that investors would not see their money

again. "We had to be totally honest. We told them we wanted to make this short film in order to break into the industry. Basically we pulled in all the favours we could," says Brill, a Rada actress turned writer/director.

Raising the money took a long time but finally they succeeded in securing the necessary funds to cover their expenses. Funding came from a mixture of friends and relatives but the biggest slice came from Stark Films through a personal contact.

Finding the money was not the only challenge.

The reduced budget meant they had to haggle for everything. "Nothing was at full price. Everything was on a deal. The price of every sandwich we bought was negotiated," says Yarwood.

The end result lasts less than 15 minutes and has an uncertain future. A television company could snap it up but the going rate is £100 a minute excluding credits. At 12½ minutes, *Expecting* would cost £1,250.

Getting a cinema showing is another possibility but a slim one. The large cinema chains are reluctant to show shorts because it reduces the number of times they can show the more lucrative feature films. With no financial gain there is no incentive to screen them. Corporate sponsorship is a possibility. Last year TSB took the innovative step of sponsoring trailers in cinemas and corporate sponsorship is increasingly paying for what appears on our television screens. Until funding becomes more generally available, those starting out have a bleak future.

## BUSINESS LETTER

## Taking advice to avoid collapse

From the Chairman, Auditing Committee, ICAEW Sir, The letter from Gill Hanksy, National Officer of the Bankruptcy Association of Great Britain and Ireland, refers to guidance to our members on identifying high-risk clients (Business Letters, March 21). It then, without any obvious connection, proceeds to state that our members give poor advice to bankrupts. I can only assume that the guidance on risk management serves as a convenient peg to pass the blame for bankruptcy on to others.

Many studies have been made on the causes of bankruptcy and there is no underlying factor that is pre-eminent. There is one area, however, on which most studies agreed — lack of professional advice in the early stages of a business, as well as throughout its life, is a contributory factor in the failure of a business.

Gill Hanksy would serve bankrupts better if the warning issued to those going into business is, "lack of a chartered accountant can damage your wealth". Of course, in that case, members of the Bankruptcy Association may decrease. Yours faithfully, MARTIN SCICLUNA, Chairman, Auditing Committee, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW), Moorgate Place, EC2.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MARCH 29 1995









## FESTIVALS page 29

A large slice of Africa comes to Britain — and brings a new flavour to summer festivities

## ARTS

## OPERA page 30

Russian writer Victor Erofeyev is about to show Britain that idiocy knows no frontiers



# Progress fit for a hero

OPERA: Rodney Milnes cheers as Bernard Haitink takes the Royal Opera's Wagner cycle to glorious heights

It is the combination of sterling musical values and a provocative yet thoughtful production that makes the Royal Opera's steadily developing Ring cycle so deeply satisfying. Without conducting as authoritative as Haitink's and a cast that is probably the best that could be assembled today, the Richard Jones/Nigel Lowery staging might look flashy, self-conscious even: without the staging the musical performance could seem near-abstract, and some of the singing workaday. But taken together the two apparently disparate elements strike hugely creative sparks off each other: I cannot remember a *Siegfried* that has gripped me so inexorably from first note to last.

Maybe Haitink has conducted neater first acts than on Monday's first night, but seldom can he have caught so persuasive a balance between the scherzo qualities of the score (sprightly rhythms, airy textures), its moments of louring darkness and its tenderness. As elsewhere in the cycle, it is the music associated with the *ewige Weibliche* that seems to draw the most heartfelt response from him — the passages in which Siegfried sings about his mother, everything surrounding his first meeting with Brünnhilde. And there is an unashamed grandeur, a sense of white-hot drama about the whole of the third act that leaves you dropped-jawed with wonder.

The gently symbolist Jones production goes from strength to strength (for the record, cheers were as vociferous as the drearily predictable boos — I'd call it a draw). The ecological theme proposed in the earlier operas is further developed: the forest to which Fafner has retired has been chopped down and replaced by a chipboard structure on

which the manufacturer's marks are clearly visible.

The stage is littered with wardrobes, as telling a symbol of the unavoidable past as, in another context, woodsheds. Fafner lives in one; the gods, still searching for Valhalla during Wotan's interview with Erda, creep into them; so does the defeated Wotan. There is a magic wardrobe in Mime's kitchen, containing as much nastiness as you will find in any woodshed. For traditionalists, there's a ring of real fire, and Siegfried leaps through it for puzzles, there's a giant fly climbing up the side of the chimney against which

## Siegfried Covent Garden

Brünnhilde is asleep (it can't work that one out).

But it is the depiction of the characters and their relationships that remains the greatest strength of the production. The first act is a tour de force, showing two people bound together by mutual dependence and mutual loathing: Siegfried, in short trousers, sullen and resentful, forever trying to leave home; and Mime, mindful of his self-proclaimed status as the boy's mother-and-father in one, sporting long greasy hair and a dress. He looks horribly like Hitchcock's Mrs Bates, and has a knife to match.

With hands clasped primly over his belly, unblinking eyes fixed on the audience, and a thin smile to freeze your very marrow, Graham Clark's portrayal is a monument of single-minded malevolence, and his going spectacularly mad while serving the hero his poisoned picnic is one of the most terrifying things I have seen in the theatre.

There is grotesquerie in plenty elsewhere: Carsten Stabel's Fafner, sharing Mime's dress, the past, the past, seems to be making a play for Siegfried as much as trying to kill him, and gets his Halloween pumpkin head sliced up for his pains. And there is, of course, comedy: Linda Kitchen's Woodbird has two friends, and they do a little dance of triumph like the Rhinemaidens. Nature gets the best of them.

But above all there is compassion. As well as being a political endgame, the first scene of Act III encompasses profound human tragedy as John Tomlinson's Wotan completes the journey he started in the earlier operas. He fights, discarding his Godot-style Wanderer's disguise in one last effort to defy fate as ruler of the world, but in defeat it is his humanity that is stressed — the tenderness of his feelings for Erda, his overwhelming love for the daughter in whose hands the future lies. Tomlinson, in fabulous voice for this scene, spares us (and himself) nothing dramatically: he is naked human emotion on legs.

As that daughter, Anne Evans sings with her accustomed radiance and musicianship. A pair of insignificant accidents apart, Siegfried Jerusalem's stamina in the title role is amazing: the hours pass without affecting the bronzed beauty of his tone. He too goes on a journey, finding long trousers along with the Ring in Fafner's wardrobe, and suggesting maturity simply by discarding his laddish titter on Brünnhilde's rock. His vile cruelty to Wotan is part of that journey.

The Haitink-Jones Ring is adding up thrillingly. Next autumn's *Götterdämmerung* is awaited with barely containable impatience.



Graham Clark as Mime — "a monument of single-minded malevolence" — and John Tomlinson, who "spares us nothing: he is naked human emotion on legs" as Wotan

Gruesome is a term both specific and confused. Technically, as the catalogue for this exhibition from the British Library collections explains, it denotes "a type of decorative ornament that was immensely fashionable throughout Europe between 1500 and 1800".

But although the form itself — mingling human and animal elements with foliage and geometry — is unfamiliar to us, it is bordered by many other kinds of fancy: garboles; friezes; rococo; the Gothic; caricature; science fiction; animation; surrealism; robotics.

The confusion began early. Etymologically, grotesques

# Good and bad of the ugly

GALLERIES: Jim McCue on an exhibition that gives face, form and history to the art of the grotesque

were murals found in the grottoes in Roman excavations around 1500, but the word was adopted for "antique, fretted, or carved work" (John Florio, 1598) which, crucially, was at odds with nature. It was the realm, in George Santayana's words, of "the suggestively monstrous".

Grotesque jumbles animal, vegetable and mineral recklessly together. Heads grow on stalks; a man becomes his own grindstone or bellower; a gecko plays the flute that is its own snout.

The taste for such things is related to the fascination felt by 17th-century poets for such paradoxical creatures as the tortoise or seahorse, which appeared to break the rules of creation.

In a print, of course, the artist can invent whatever relations he pleases between, say, animals and their decorative frames (rather like elaborate wrought-iron gates); he can comfort flesh for the sake of pattern, or extrude a mere doodle into a head or claw. A body may taper to a pillar or shrimp's tail. Distortions which we might consider disturbing or frightening, like circus freaks, our forebears apparently found amusing.

This exhibition consists of examples from 22 sets of prints, ranging from the Rome of about 1530-35 to Naples in 1766-67. The earliest are by an engraver of Raphael's circle, Agostino Veneziano, who took ideas both from the classical grottoes and from the adapta-

tions painted by Raphael and others in the Vatican Loggia for Pope Leo X in 1518-19.

Veneziano's symmetrical arrangements of birds and lamps among swags and spirals are offered for other artists to steal from. Later,

elaborate but impossible architectural designs take over, with arcades, pillars and vaults often framing a central panel as if for a ceiling, an engraved title-page or the lettering of a vault.

Arent van Boltren was one of a number of silversmiths and goldsmiths represented in the exhibition who had a sideline in grotesques. His drawings of "monstrous animals", some of them engraved in the 1630s for a Parisian publisher, are in-

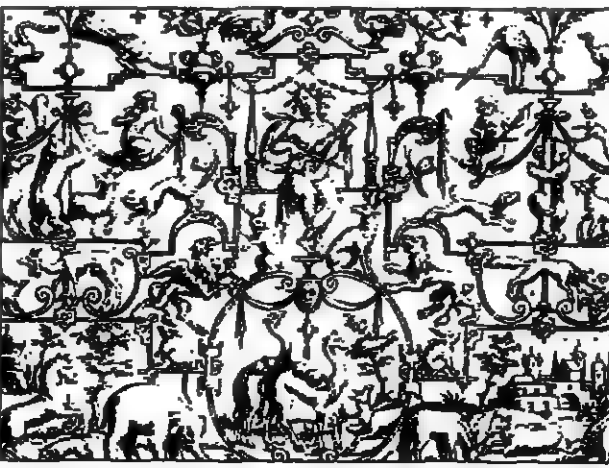
debited to the creatures of Hieronymus Bosch, and are just as curious to us. What inspires such studies of ugliness, or is that value judgment an anachronism?

If van Boltren anticipates the discovery in the Burgess Shale of alternative biologies which might have flourished in our stead, Giovanni Battista Braccioli's articulated figures are more like aliens from *Dr Who*, and Aloisio Giovannoli's masks like Arcimboldo heads without the fruit.

Then, gradually, the grotesque shades off into French classicism (Anne of Austria had a bathroom decorated in grotesque style), or into whimsy such as von Bommel's animals made from twists of foliage (but in poses perhaps taken from naturalistic paintings).

The last works in the exhibition still show the influence of grotesque, but have become something else (such as chinoiserie). Taste had moved on, and true grotesque had begun to appear merely quaint. By the 1890s, the term could be applied to anything from Doré's engravings to absurd collage.

●The Grotesque, sponsored by BT, is at the Whitworth Gallery, Manchester, until April 8, at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, April 15-June 10, and then on national tour



Grotesque jumbles animal, vegetable and mineral together to produce "the suggestively monstrous"

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RECITAL: A technically solid performer finally reveals his more dashing profile

## Who dares wins

Andrew Wilde  
Wigmore Hall

WHILE garnering some impressive reviews over the past few years and carrying off a number of prizes in international competitions, the British pianist Andrew Wilde still has not quite achieved the reputation his admirers believe he deserves.

Wilde is an unflashy pianist, solid of technique and thoughtful of approach. His programme featured two composers only, Chopin and Haydn, and I liked his idea of grouping five of the former's mazurkas in, respectively, D flat, C sharp minor, C, C minor and B. He played them without a break, tracing a downward spiral of melancholy, which he counterpointed with a forthright, richly coloured performance of the

concluding work, in B. Thus the twin aspects of the genre — their interior and exterior characteristics — were neatly combined.

Wilde's playing has a somewhat disconcerting directness, seen clearly in the two Haydn sonatas, H.XVI:20 in C minor and H.XVI:42 in D. The principal theme of the latter was announced sturdily on each appearance, although it was tapered every time into a melting feminine cadence.

Whether such a Romanticised gesture is stylistically appropriate in a Haydn sonata is highly questionable, but one could not deny the engaging quality of the playing, which allowed for the theme to be rendered interrogatively towards the end of the movement. The Vivace finale was a tour de force of controlled virtuosity, with a delightful throwaway ending.

The concluding Chopin group demonstrated similar mannerisms in a different style. One might have expected the first of the two Op 27 Nocturnes, in C sharp minor, to begin with an evocatively

distant arpeggio deep in the bass. Instead it was launched a notch or two louder than the marked pianissimo, but once again the opening phrase dissolved before long in a finely graded, heartwarming shift of perspective. The second Nocturne, switching to the major, followed immediately, spinning an elegantly decorated bel canto melodic line.

The final Ballade No 1 in G minor brought out a side of this player of which one would like to have heard more: the performance took wing in a state of something approaching ecstasy, with a secure technique always in the service of musical values.

BARRY MILLINGTON

THEATRE: Old Havel makes new points

## Wicked days at the office

The Memorandum  
Orange Tree,  
Richmond

WRITTEN and produced in 1965 when its author, Vaclav Havel, was a relatively free man: first staged in this country 12 years later, when he had been placed under house arrest, this famous play is being revived at a time when he appears to have become incarcerated again, although now as his country's President.

The Velvet Revolution gives a special significance to the words spoken by the typist Maria, the only decent character in the play, trying to embolden her pusillanimous boss: "I believe that if one doesn't give way, truth must always come out in the end."

It has not done so when the play ends, and, perhaps, within the multiple ironies of the closing scene Maria herself has given way. Her boss's fatuous blatherings make her curiously happy. But on the other hand, this may be because she is leaving him to join her brother's theatre group — just such a group as the Theatre on the Balustrade, for whom *The Memorandum* was written.

Her boss is Josef Gross, who could well be known as Josef G., recalling Josef K. Kafka's hero, who woke up one morning to find himself arrested. Josef G. arrives at his office to find himself being supplanted by his scheming deputy. The weapon used is synthetic language called Pdydepe, pronounced in four syllables: P-tie-dip-py. This is supposed to increase the efficiency of inter-departmental memos and instead leads to impotence and chaos.

Havel writes amusing

scenes in which this ghastly tongue is being taught, culminating in one where the instructor (John Baddeley) has suavely replaced it with another, based on directly opposite principles. But the play's real meat is the endless circling by Gross around the building, becoming ever deeper entangled in the deceit and betrayal. David Allister, in physique like a harassed Clement Attlee although twice the height, gives his voice the wobble of panic and his shoulders the hunched look of a beast of burden.

Shortly before the half-way mark the play is becalmed in repetition, and some of the Absurdist baggage has not worn well. But Sam Walters's production recovers in the second half, and the scenes between Allister and Victoria Hamilton, excellently conveying Maria's plucky goodness, are tense and eloquent.

Among the play's happier inventions is the character of Mr Pillar, played here by Ian Angus Wilde in silence for almost the entire play, but communicating volumes by his nods, insouciant shakes of the head and ominous shrugs. In an office, or a nation, where human speech is condemned, silence may seem wise. But it fails to save Pillar. The only true course, even if it is foolhardy, is not to give way.

JEREMY KINGSTON

WORLD MUSIC: Eclectic Brazilian master

## Skilful fingers plumb every pie

Egberto Gismonti  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

EGBERTO GISMONTI is an instrumentalist and composer who defies classification. Born in Carmo — a small town in Rio state where everyone stops to say *bom dia* — he has embraced every conceivable melodic idiom of Brazil, and many others from sources as diverse as north India and the Mississippi delta.

With long, thick hair (inherited, no doubt, from his Lebanese father) and knitted red skull-cap, Gismonti's relaxed demeanour belies the rigour of his technical discipline. He plays the guitar as handsomely as he does the piano, in which he was instructed by no less a teacher than Nadia Boulanger.

The rich magnet of Brazil, fortunately, drew him out of the conservatory. Inspired by Villa-Lobos, and the use made by him of the country's musical resources, Gismonti began to compose by reference to samba, choro, jazz, bossa and *baixo*, using each style as but one ingredient for a new music.

In his performance on Sunday, Gismonti performed first on the guitar, his music contriving to be cerebral and infectious — and even erotic — at the same time. As he played, Gismonti evoked in turn the technique of Segovia, Sábicas, Manitas de Plata, and even Jimi Hendrix, all presided over by the benign ghost of Villa-Lobos.

Always present, though, particularly in the percussive

way in which he plucked the strings of his guitar, was the insistent rhythm of the train. Gismonti spent long hours as a youth counting the wagons on the goods trains that rumbled daily through his provincial childhood: the memory of these trains gave birth to *Trem caipira*, his album from 1985 in which he audaciously married the piano to the synthesizer.

That, in fact, was Gismonti's method after the interval. The accompaniment on synthesizer and double-bass of Nando Carneiro and Zeca Assumpção — correct in partnership with the guitar — acquired a more fertile voice as the piano assumed a Ravelesque colouring. The train was still there, however, even in a countryside lullaby that was as alluring as it was placid.

Called back twice for encores, Gismonti played a vivid *chorinho* and — in perhaps the most ravishing piece of the evening — a cruelly short American tune on a reed flute.

If it evoked the blues, it whispered also of his friendship with Sábicas, a shaman whom Gismonti met in the jungle near the Kingu river.

TUNKU VARADARAJAN

## SOUL WITH FOOD

LONDON: Cambridge Theatre  
BASED on the life of soul singer Doris Troy, the musical *Mama, I Want to Sing* ran for five years Off-Broadway, and now makes the transatlantic hop to the West End. Troy herself began singing gospel and jazz before hitting the soul and pop charts in the 1960s, and all of these musical influences get due recognition in *Mama*. Written by Jy Higgins — Troy's sister — and Ken Wydro, who also directs, *Mama* stars soul diva Chaka Khan and Troy herself, playing her own mother.

THE TIMES  
**THEATRE CLUB**  
the show, and enjoy a course pre-theatre dinner at the Ad Lib restaurant £25 (the annual price ticket alone). To book, phone 0800 235583. Membership of the Theatre Club costs £12.50 a year. To join, ring 01206 791777. For all inquiries, call 011-276 2265



From Brighton to Orkney, from pop to Pinter: Kate Bassett offers a guide to the top British festivals of 1995

# Festive delights of the summer

## APRIL

**Glasgow Mayfest:** A key international festival that programmes classical and world music, comedy and drama. Mayfest 95 balances tea dances with technology-inspired entertainment on the banks of the River Clyde. Plus a hot theatre programme that offers Robert Lepage and Ingmar Bergman's company, Dramaten.  
Apr 27 - May 20 (0141-552 8000)

**Kendal:** An admirable festival of innovative physical theatre and dance with V-Tol, Volcano, Shattering Beasts and more at the Brewery Arts Centre in beautiful Cumbria.  
Apr 21 - 30 (01599 725133)

**London Handel:** A festival of Handel and his contemporaries, mostly in Handel's parish church - St George's, Hanover Square - and including a staging of *Deidamia*.  
Until Apr 27 (0181-336 0990)

## MAY

**Aria:** A month of opera in Essex venues.  
May 24 - Jun 17 (01245 436825)

**Bardays New Stages:** Theatrical pioneering productions by independent companies, from Doo Cor's puppets to performer/filmmaker Annie Griffin, at the Royal Court, the South Bank and around Nottinghamshire.  
May 13 - Jun 3 (0171-730 1745 or 0115-941 9419)

**Bath:** International music - classical, contemporary and folk - in beautiful Bath. Jazz with Sonny Rollins, spirituals from South Africa's Vaal Reef Chorus. Opening night celebrations feature street performers and fireworks in the Royal Crescent.  
May 19 - Jun 4 (01225 462231)

**Beverley:** Early music in the medieval town with the snug Gothic Minster, this year with



Irek Mukhamedov: King and I in Covent Garden

a European slant. The Corona Coloniensis choir joins the German ensemble Musica Fiata. The Gabrieli Consort performs Purcell's odes.  
May 11 - 14 (01904 645738)

**Bournemouth:** The merriest moves to May with artists-in-residence, literary events, rock and jazz. Classical music comes from the resort's renowned Symphony Orchestra and the Mecklenburgh Opera. Piano Circus will make a contemporary music, and the pier hosts comedy. Theatrical fare includes *Theatre de Complicité* and the Oxford Stage Company.  
May 12 - 28 (01202 297327)

**Brighton:** A major bonanza in the Regency town with recitals in the Royal Pavilion, besides afternoons at Glyndebourne with Andras Schiff and the Borodin Quartet. An impressive literary line-up and a strong theatre programme includes Out of Joint, the Wrestling School, and the National Theatre of Croatia.  
May 5 - 28 (01273 676926)

**Cardiff Bay Jazz:** Troubled by the loss of a sponsor, the festival is battling on with jazz in the Norwegian Church.  
May 27 - 29 (01222 340591)

**Chelmsford Cathedral:** Gillian Weir and Simon Preston play the new organ. Lunchtime chamber music: Britten's *Curlew* River.  
May 11 - 20 (01245 359890)

**Covent Garden:** The BOC Festival includes Dame Gwyneth Jones in the Freemantle Hall, ballet star Irek Mukhamedov in *The King and I*, and *Trial by Jury* in and 1. and *Trial by Jury* in and 1. and *Trial by Jury* in and 1.  
May 8 - 21 (0171-240 0560, box office 0171-312 1990)

**Glyndebourne:** New productions of Rossini's *Ermione* (directed by Graham Vick) and Janáček's *The*



Ugandan artist M.K. Mulindwe's work is included in 7-7-1 - Seven Stories about Modern Art in Africa at the Whitechapel Art Gallery; part of Africa 95 starting in August

**Makropulos Case** (director Nikolaus Lehnhoff, both conducted by Andrew Davis) join Birwistle's *The Second Mrs Kong*, Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito*, Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades* and Deborah Warner's controversial production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Tickets range from £105 to £10.  
May 22 - Aug 27 (01273 81813)

**Hay:** A major bonanza of literature in the Black Mountains with Nadine Gordimer, Ian Banks et al.  
May 26 - Jun 4 (01497 821217, box office 01497 821229)

**Jersey:** Jersey's first major artsfest will be celebrating in 50 years of freedom. Shakespeare in the castle, plus Julian Bream, Paco Pena and talks.  
May 15 - 29 (01534 873767)

**Malvern:** Music and the arts amidst the Worcestershire hills, featuring British composers and *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Madam Butterfly* and *Die Fledermaus*.  
May 20 - Jun 3 (01684 572725)

**Newbury:** The Bournemouth and Budapest Symphony Orchestras congregate in St Nicholas's Church. George Melly lectures on Max Ernst and artists open their studios.  
May 6 - 20 (01635 32421)

**Pride:** London's celebration of gay creativity ranges from Sandi Toksvig doing stand-up to the Pride Literary Festival at the National Theatre.  
May 27 - Jun 24 (0171-738 7644)

**Salisbury:** An enticing line-up with the premiere of Steve Reich's *City Life*, comedy from Lee Evans, the Blind Boys of Alabama with gospel in the cathedral, and Natural Theatre Company running wild in the Market Place.  
May 12 - 29 (01722 323883)

**Sheffield:** Chamber music, especially Bach and Mozart, are celebrated in the Crucible Studio Theatre with the Lindsay String Quartet and the Ricerata de Paris.  
May 13 - 27 (01904 645738)

**Turning World:** A London celebration of dance spanning The Place, QEH, Sadler's Wells and the Lillian Baylis. The international programme embraces O Vertigo and Tolada Dance Company.  
May 23 - Jun 17 (0171-387 0031)

## JUNE

**Aldeburgh:** Unsurprisingly, the festival founded by Britten is commemorating the 50th anniversary of *Peter Grimes*. The *Wildman*, Nicola Lefanu's opera, based on a legend of local fishermen netting a hairy creature, receives its premiere. There are tributes to Tippett and Purcell, with Jane Glover conducting *The Fairy Queen*. The composer-in-residence is Magnus Lindberg and Elliott Carter has written a song cycle for Lucy Shelton.  
Jun 9 - 25 (01738 452935)

**Bradford:** More than 1,000 events import talent, from Cossacks to Pakistani puppeteers, and celebrate the city's cultural diversity. A carnival parade on celluloid themes marks cinema's centenary. Meanwhile, BAFI is Bradford's festival of animated film, and Lister Park is the venue for MELA ("festival" in Urdu) with food, music and comedy.  
Jun 23 - Jul 8 (01274 309199)

**Chelms:** Jazz, fashion shows, tea dances and classical music around Sloane Square.  
Jun 4 - 10 (0171-824 8219)

**City of London:** Classical music, jazz and Arts Fair in such splendid places as St Paul's and the Tower.  
Jun 20 - Jul 7 (0171-639 8891)

**Crete:** Baroque music and Don Giovanni staged by Opera Box in Brantree's medieval barn-temple. Opus Anglicanum, the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields and folksongs will be heard.  
Jun 20 - 30 (01245 436825)

**Cricieth:** Music in this small Welsh town with fireworks at the castle. The Lantano Ensemble pops in: Welsh National Opera performs *Cinderella*.



Young cellist Natalie Clein performs at Exeter

**Exeter:** The cathedral hosts The Best of British with classical music, jazz, dance, comedy and theatre. The National Trust centenary is marked with park concerts. Lesley Garrett sings, Natalie Clein plays the cello.  
Jun 29 - Jul 16 (01392 265118)

**Garsington:** A rare chance to hear Richard Strauss's *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, directed by David Fielding. Mozart's *Der Schauspieler* and Rossini's *La Cenerentola* are joined by David Pountney's first Haydn staging, *La fedeltà premiata*. The all fresco performances are on the Jacobean manor's terrace. Dinner in the Great Barn, or you can picnic.  
Jun 11 - Jul 9 (01865 361636)

**Glastonbury:** The fields of Somerset are studded with rock stars for a festival that celebrates its 25th birthday this year. Tickets are £65 (advance only).  
Jun 23 - 5 (hotline 01839 668999, tickets 01179 767868)

**Greenwich:** A fine local festival celebrating its silver jubilee from the riverfront to the Old Royal Observatory, with classical music, jazz, theatre, a new literary accent and cinema. The programme promises Janet Suzman, and madcap Ken Campbell.  
Jun 2 - 18 (0181-305 1818)

**Gwynedd:** Classical music in a Welsh mock-Tudor mansion.  
Jun 24 - Jul 1 (01686 625007)

**Hampton Court:** Outdoor concerts, including Lord Mynah, held in the stunning setting of Base Court. An extended interval lets you picnic in the Great Fountain Garden or wander through state apartments entertained by performers.  
Jun 4 - 21 (Ticketmaster 0171-344 4444)

**London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT):** This biennial event imports intriguing performances including Indonesian dance and South African drama. Deborah Warner directs in London's craziest closed building, St Pancras Chambers, and Berlin's Volksbühne performs in an old distillery.  
Jun 11 - Jul 9 (0171-490 3964)

**Ludlow:** Richard III will be staged in the ruined Norman Castle, once home to his unfortunate nephews. Beverley Craven joins the BBC Big Band and Crystal Clear Opera presents Peter Brook's version of *Carmen*.  
Jun 24 - Jul 9 (01584 872150)

**Luthvan Baroque Music:** A delightful feast of early music in the Wigmore Hall and in Wren's St James's Church. Piccadilly. Purcell and his contemporaries are feted by Musica Antiqua Köln. Florilegium, Corelliana, and Al Ayre Español.  
Jun 14 - Jul 13 (0171-228 6388)

**Meltdown:** Elvis Costello joins forces with London's South Bank Centre to create a week of unexpected music. Costello and the Brodsky Quartet play Well while top composers re-score films.  
Jun 23 - Jul 1 (0171-921 8800)

**St Magnus:** Indigenous and international talent on the Orkney Islands where the sun barely sets. Including Lefanu's opera *The Wildman*, and Kevin Crossley-Holland as festival poet.  
Jun 16 - 21 (01856 872669)

**Spitalfields:** The concerts are in Hawksmoor's acoustically beautiful Christ Church in the East End. Purcell's masques, fantasies and odes are joined by premieres by McBurney and Woolrich. Emma Kirkby and The Sixteen are billed.  
Jun 7 - 28 (0171-377 0287)

**Stour:** Devoted to Purcell, from tavern songs to sacred music, the festival plays host to the King's Consort, Michael Chance and more.  
Jun 16 - 25 (01233 812740)

**Thaxted:** Concerts in the spired church with the English Baroque Choir and English Sinfonia. Billie Whitelaw gives readings.  
Jun 23 - Jul 16 (01371 870296)

## JULY

**BBC Henry Wood Promenade Concerts:** Much new music is promised for this year, the Proms' centenary. In the Albert Hall as usual. The prospectus is published in early May.  
Jul 21 - Sept 16 (0191-222 0381)

**Birmingham Jazz:** All around the city, 90 per cent free.  
Jul 7 - 16 (0121-454 7020)

**Bury St Edmunds:** Ten years old, the festival centres on the cathedral and the market town's pretty theatres. High-profile classical musicians are joined by Jools Holland and a Flamenco Fiesta.  
Jul 12 - 29 (01284 757097)

**Buxton:** The exquisite Edwardian opera house in the Peak District spa town hosts Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* (Pirindio Opera) and Monteverdi's *The Return of Ulysses* (directed by Annabel Arden). The Holst Singers and the Tallis Scholars are booked in, as well as cabaret and jazz.  
Jul 12 - 29 (01298 70395)

**Cambridge:** The Folk Festival, with everyone from Elvis Costello to Sharon Shannon, is just part of Summer in The City. The Midsummer Fair falls in June followed by the Summer Recitals season, the Bumpers, Big Days Out in the parks, the Film Festival and visual arts on the fringe.  
Folk Festival, Jul 28 - 30 (01223 463363). Summer in The City, mainly in July (01223 463363)

**Cheltenham Music:** This fine international festival expands on symphony orchestras and focuses on Hungarian music, with numerous major names and new operas from Woolrich and Ades. Also dance, jazz and film.  
Jul 1 - 16 (01242 521621)

**Chester:** Summer music ranges from lunchtime concerts to late-night jazz in the walled city. Virtuoso pianist Nikolai Demidenko is scheduled. The City of London Sinfonia performs Handel's *Saul* and the King's Consort celebrates Purcell.  
Jul 14 - 20 (01244 320722)

**Chichester Festivities:** There are classical and jazz concerts with the cathedral as the hub of culture. The cloisters take on contemporary sculpture. *Don Giovanni* will be seen at Goodwood House. A fireworks spectacular accompanies the Tattoo at the Racecourse. Meanwhile, the Chichester theatre season (Apr 26 - Oct 7, 01243 781312) boasts Harold Pinter in his own play *The Homecoming* and Derek Jacobi in *Hadrian VII*.  
Jul 2 - 18 (01243 785719)

**Dartington Summer School:** Intensive music-making with master classes and workshops on anything from the sackbut to African drums. Also, from Aug 28 to Sept 4, there is the literary *Way With Words* Festival at Dartington Hall, with David Lodge, Malcolm Bradbury and more.

**Edinburgh:** The world's best-known festival is nearing its 50th birthday. Alongside the huge Fringe which stuffs Scotland's capital with drama and comedy, the International Festival has Peter Zadek, Peter Sellars, Patrice Chéreau and Pina Bausch, Claudio Abbado and Pierre Boulez conduct. The Drambuie Edinburgh Film Festival (Aug 13-27) has its eye on innovation.  
Aug 13 - Sept 2 (International Festival 0131-226 4001, Festival Fringe 0131-226 5257, Film Festival 0131-228 4051)

**Gloucester:** Embracing orchestras and recitals, the Three Choirs Festival is Europe's longest-standing choral celebration, with commissions from Mark Blatchley and Ian Venables and a focus on women composers.  
Aug 19 - 26 (01452 529819)

**Notting Hill:** London's giant street carnival celebrating black culture, and happily trouble-free in recent years.  
Aug 27 - 28 (0181-964 0544)

**Vale of Glamorgan:** A celebration of living composers, including Andriessen, Martland and Newarrow. Premieres by Martin Butler and Pwll ap Iwan.  
Aug 12 - 20 (01446 794848)

**Jul 22 - Aug 26 (01803 867068, Way With Words 01803 867311)**

**Fleishguard:** Choirs, orchestras and recitals in Fleishguard and at St David's Cathedral, plus the Pembrokeshire scenery and coastal path.  
Jul 22 - 29 (01346 873612)

**Harrogate:** The 30th year of merriest opens with music from Kent Nagano and the Halle Orchestra. The line-up continues with Julian Lloyd Webber and "New Wave" Steve Marriott. Also street theatre, comedy and jazz.  
Jul 27 - Aug 11 (01423 565757)

**Healey:** A popular season on the site of the replica with a floating stage. The Laubeque Sisters play Poulsen's double



Elvis Costello: one of the attractions in Cambridge

piano concerto and Marion Montgomery sings jazz.  
Jul 5 - 8 (01543 451533)

**King's Lynn:** Revels in the old East Anglian port.  
Jul 15 - 29 (01553 773578)

**Lake District Summer:** Chamber music by Lake Windermere. Concerts, lunchtime recitals, and talks with distinguished musicians who are coaching at the attached summer school.  
Jul 29 - Aug 12 (01539 733411)

**Lichfield:** Measure for Measure in the open air and photographs by Lord Lichfield. The cathedral marks its 800th birthday with Sinfonia 21, Elgar Howarth, Ian Bostred, Peter Donohoe, the Halle Orchestra et al.  
Jul 7 - 16 (01543 257298)

**Llangollen Eisteddfod:** Choirs are everywhere, national costumes run amok, folk dancers cavort, and Pavarotti appears with his father.  
Jul 4 - 9 (01978 860236)

**Medway:** In the gardens of Rochester Castle, you may hear the Romanian National Opera, soul, or music from the Jazz Age, with canon fire and water fountains for a finale.  
Jul 22 - 29 (01634 403868)

**Peterborough Cathedral:** Concerts by the London Mozart Players and English Sinfonia in the cathedral. Bryan Kelly, composer-in-residence, talks on Purcell.  
Jul 1 - 7 (01733 343342)

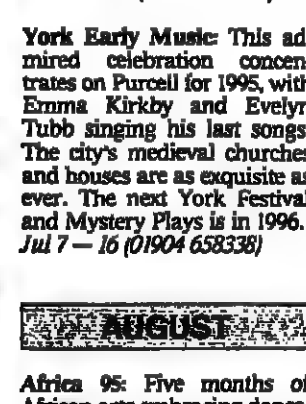
**St Albans:** There are two organ competitions: the ca-

thedral in the old Roman city, as well as talks, excursions, and exhibitions. Concerts include the BBC Philharmonic and Jacques Loussier.  
Jul 6 - 15 (01727 846126)

**Warwick and Leamington:** Firework concerts at Warwick Castle. Nettle & Markham with their double piano; *Rigoletto* staged by Pimlico Opera; and commissions from young composers Andrew Duncan and Mark Blatchley. The Czech Music Festival Weekend (May 5 to 9) features Dvořák and Janáček.  
Jul 1 - 16 (01926 410747)

**Wexford:** The main world-music jamboree this year will be on the banks of the Thames in Reading with global food, crafts, and music from Ali Farka Touré (Mali) to Capercaillie (Scotland).  
Jul 21 - 23 (01225 743188)

**York Early Music:** This admired celebration concentrates on Purcell for 1995, with Emma Kirkby and Evelyn Tubb singing his last songs. The city's medieval churches and houses are as exquisite as ever. The next York Festival and Mystery Plays is in 1996.  
Jul 7 - 16 (01904 658338)



Elvis Costello: one of the attractions in Cambridge

piano concerto and Marion Montgomery sings jazz.  
Jul 5 - 8 (01543 451533)

**Arundel:** The castle and its grounds provide an impressive setting for Shakespeare and other things. Artistic director Graeme Jenkins conducts the City of London Sinfonia, and the Nash Ensemble is in residence. Artists open their homes.  
Aug 25 - Sept 3 (01903 883690)

**Brecon Jazz:** Small Welsh market town goes wild in the

shadow of the Beacons.  
Aug 11 - 13 (01874 625557)

**Canterbury:** A commendable mixed-arts festival with cathedral concerts, the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, and saxophonist Jan Garbarek. George Newson's new opera is joined by Purcell's masque for *Dioclesian* (Kent Opera). The National Theatre of Sarajevo's *Antony and Cleopatra* stars Vanessa Redgrave.  
Oct 7 - 21 (01227 452853)

**Cheltenham Literature:** A major festival of famous writers. Themed days cover sport, marriage and prison.  
Oct 6 - 15 (01242 521621)

**Liverpool Visionfest:** Taking an unusual angle, Liverpool's celebration of visual art and design embraces sculpture, photography, architecture, and computer images.  
Oct 2 - 29 (0151-708 9887)

**Dance Umbrella:** This contemporary-dance festival amasses international artists in London and includes a new work from DV8.  
Oct 9 - Nov 5 (0181-741 4040)

**Norfolk and Norwich:** Norwich goes Greek with bouzouki bands. Jodi Diss re-creating Isadora Duncan's Grecian dances, and the orchestra La Camerata in the cathedral. Beyond that, there are quality classical concerts, jazz, film and dance.  
Oct 5 - 15 (01603 76764)

● A guide to European festivals will appear next Wednesday

**BBC Symphony Orchestra**

Wednesday 29 March Royal Festival Hall 7.30pm

Alexander Lazarev conductor

Simon Bainbridge conductor\*

Christine Cairns mezzo-soprano

Kim Walker bassoon

Rimsky-Korsakov May Night

Simon Bainbridge Ad Ora Incerta - Four

Orchestral Songs from Primo Levi\*

(BBC Commission - world premiere)

Tchaikovsky Manfred Symphony

Saturday 1 April Royal Festival Hall 7.30pm

Alexander Lazarev conductor

Nathalie Stutzmann mezzo-soprano

Wagner Overture 'Tannhäuser'

Mahler Kindertotenlieder

Shostakovich Symphony No. 15

All seats £10 and unreserved, £5 for children, students, unemployed and over 60s

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## Holding back the Hollywood tide

Subsidies and inducements may be the British way of getting a slice of the film industry pie

Neat timing. Just as one billion people around the world watch the Academy Awards from Los Angeles, the European Commission tries to break the Hollywood habit. It is a lost cause. The world is addicted to Hollywood movies. Somehow, in the early days of the cinema, Russian Jews finding their way their way to southern California perfected a recipe for using moving pictures to tell a story with economy, style and pace.

Other cultures make excellent films too, but not with the same universal appeal. So how can other countries stem the American tide? The fact that the European Commission has chosen the wrong way — quotas — does not mean that the struggle is not worth making. Films are the most popular form of public entertainment. The world market cannot be abandoned to Hollywood.

So how to spur the European film and television industries to counterattack? The French have no doubt. They have succeeded in getting the Commission to approve the tightening up of the requirements that half of everything shown on European television should be European-made (for the next ten years). Britain has pronounced itself "disappointed" at the decision which, if passed by the Council of Ministers next month, would remove the loophole that allowed countries to comply only "where practicable".

For quotas are rigid and easily outwitted. Besides, there simply is not enough popular television available for all the channels there are. Most European countries do like their own programmes best. But the well-made and cheap American shows are strong second favourites. This month the strongly free-trade *Economist* wickedly mustered statistics to show

how much people in all the major European countries love the American *Baywatch* — and that, proportionately, the French love it most of all. In France in 1994, *Baywatch* drew 4.5 million viewers against 9.9 million for the top-ranking series, *Les yeux d'Hélène*. In Britain *Baywatch* drew 7.9 million to *Coronation Street*'s 17.9 million.

It is easy to sneer at French protectionism if your own language is not under threat. Not so easy, however, to devise ways to encourage foreign investors to bring their money to help your own audiovisual industry.

On Tuesday, Mr Gerald Kaufman and his Commons Select Committee on the



BRENDA MADDOX

National Heritage will issue their long-awaited report on what Britain should do.

The Kaufman committee took itself all the way to Hollywood in search of the facts of life of film investment. Their report, however, will show that they need have gone no further than Dublin.

The Republic of Ireland recently began offering tax breaks which effectively give film-makers 10 to 15 per cent of their budget back. The result, according to research by the British Film Commission, is that investment in film production in the Irish Republic rose from a scant £1 million in 1992 to £100 million in 1994. Australia and Canada, too, offer attractive

combinations of tax incentives and subsidy.

Even within the United States, the states are mastering the techniques of wooing film-makers away from California. State film development commissions not only offer tax incentives but also help outside producers to deal with all kinds of problems, from employment regulations to stopping traffic.

The Kaufman committee may recommend that the British Film Commission play some such active co-ordinating function for foreign film-makers. It may also recommend that borrowing be made easier. Yet there is no guarantee that the Heritage Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, no Action Man, will approve the inducements and pass them on to the Treasury, or that the Treasury will approve.

A strong body of free-market purists believes that all forms of industrial assistance are enervating and bad. The British music industry, with no fiscal props at all, thrives and competes with America.

But films are not like records. The production risk for each project is much greater. Anyway, if there is little objection to the incentives Britain offers to foreign electronics and car manufacturers, why deny similar inducements to the film industry? Cultural subsidies are not a sin — except to those who would abolish public libraries on the ground that anybody who wants to read the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* should buy it.

What is a "British" film is a ludicrous question. It is the same as a "British" book. Not the subject, nor the origin of the money. The "British" ingredient consists of skills and traditions which are not American, and which have proven their appeal in the world market.

## Noel's big business party

Undeterred by recent blips, the Noel Edmonds empire is

expanding, reports Alexandra Freen

If the British Academy for Film and Television Arts were to give a prize at its awards ceremony this month for the television celebrity with the most carefully cultivated image, it would surely go to Noel Edmonds.

After six months of relentless media criticism, focusing on a string of business difficulties and the alleged decline in popularity of *Noel's House Party*, his flagship television show, Edmonds is staying calm. He even displays a cheery determination to carry on, and to expand his entertainment and business interests.

Despite the forced closure in December of his theme park in Morecambe and a falling-out with Lancaster City Council, his partner in the venture, and despite a planning blunder at the theme park in Somerset in which he has an interest, Edmonds plans to open similar attractions.

The first, a Crinkley Bottom stage show based on his TV show, is about to open at the Pleasurewood Hills family entertainment venue between Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft in East Anglia. Edmonds describes the show, which uses video images of himself as well as actors, as a kind of "21st-century pantomime".

He says: "We hope soon to be announcing two more venues, with which we are linking. One is an all-day family venue, themed on intellectual properties. The other includes catering. Our ambitions are to move into restaurants and hotels, all with family themes — what is called entertainment catering. One thing we don't want to do is to stray too far from our experience base."

By the end of the year, he hopes to announce details of a new themed venue in Scotland. Within two years, there could be a chain of 20 to 25



'I have to accept the fact that I'm getting older... and that I have ambitions'

"entertainment catering" outlets, all based on Mr Bobby, his pink latex sidekick, and on *House Party*. "Entertainment catering is where you go to have fun as you eat and drink," Edmonds says. "It's underexploited and it is an area we want to plug."

Some commentators have heaped scorn on Edmonds for his tendency to lapse into marketing-speak in this way. His refusal to accept the "magic" of showbusiness, and his determination to see it instead in more mercenary terms as an excellent marketing opportunity for himself, his Mr Bobby products — which he shares in a 50-50 deal with the BBC — and his theme parks, is also a constant irritant to many in the media.

Edmonds says that such flak is merely part of the "rules of engagement" and something he has to endure. He adds, however, with a tinge of *amour propre*, that one of his ambitions is to be "regarded as somebody".

No doubt it is largely

because of his fiercely businesslike approach to the entertainment industry that Edmonds has lasted so long, while others have faded. It also helps to explain how he successfully made the transition from Radio 1 presenter to TV celebrity and business entrepreneur.

If Edmonds's first big career break came when he joined

the ultimate engineer and an adept technician, capable of tweaking the well-worn formulae of his shows when they become tired. He takes as much pleasure in production as in performing and says he would be equally happy running a nuts-and-bolts factory.

Edmonds has no illusions that his TV career will last for ever. His main show, *Noel's House Party*, with its studiously rehearsed slapstick humour, schoolboy pranks and bucketloads of goo poured over people's heads is not every armchair critic's cup of tea. Yet, after nearly 90 shows, *House Party* (which finished its latest run last Saturday) is still regularly seen by 12 million people and it has been one of BBC's most effective weapons in the ratings battle against ITV.

Edmonds admits, however, that his current contract with the BBC to do the show, which expires in spring 1997, may well be his last. "I have to accept the fact that I'm getting older and that I have ambitions," he says. "To me, televis-

ion has never been the most important thing in my life, so it's very easy for me to imagine that if I got tired of it, I would opt out."

Meanwhile, Edmonds is building up his business interests. As well as his theme parks-cum-restaurant ventures and the independent radio production company he part-owns, he has just signed a deal with the BBC to make a 13-part Mr Bobby cartoon television series. And he plans to expand into the animation business.

The key to his business approach so far has been to use the creative input and media profile in ventures with partners, who have been mainly responsible for making the necessary capital investment and running the business — an approach that went badly wrong in Morecambe.

Edmonds's biggest challenge now will be to find other business partners, such as the BBC, with whom he can work and who share his vision of England as a family-friendly land dotted with pink Blooby eateries and lashings of multi-coloured goo.

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"Come and see my new restaurant," he said, "but don't ask me to pose for a bloody picture."

Marco's cooking being rivalled only by his temper, I didn't protest.

## Marco Pierre White, from the safety of Table 3.

On the other hand, we're about to start work on his new cookbook, 'White Heat II' and here was a chance to capture the maestro in a moment of spontaneous combustion.

So I pocketed the Olympus 110 Superzoom. The smallest 3 x zoom camera in the world, it'll sit under a napkin without attracting the attention of even the most attentive maître d'.

And with a range of 35-110mm it can pick out a wild mushroom at 30 paces, let alone a wild chef at 20.

Tuesday lunchtime arrives. So do I, and am whisked to table 3, with a river view. Marco sends greetings from the kitchen and a bottle of Krug.

I check the menu.

Automatic film loading, winding, speed setting, exposure control and exclusive 'thinking' flash. Followed by a highly recommended multi-beam auto focus.

For 'weatherproof' I also optimistically assume 'sauce proof.' (A ladle-full of bouillon goes a long way.)

Superzoom at the ready, I keep an eye on the kitchen door.

My starter appears (baked sea scallops with lemon and cinnamon - heaven).

Then the gastronomic tornado himself. A tiff over the tarte tatin, it seems.

As Marco explodes, I snap. The result, you see above.

A few days later I show him. 'Harvey's Canteen' is being heaped with praise from all quarters and Marco is in ebullient mood.

"Crafty sod," he beams, "my compliments to Olympus."



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# France banking on experience for World Cup

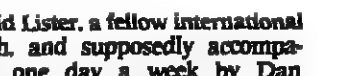
## Wales look to future amid coaching crisis

who has turned Cardiff into a league and cup contenders this season, and Mike Ruddock, whose Swansea team won the league last season, have signified their willingness to shoulder the coaching burden for the World Cup effort.

**Scotland, for the Inter-Services championship.**

**FRANCE SQUAD:** Backs: J-L Sadourny, S Vians, E Niernack, P Saint-André (captain), P Sella, T Lacros, F Mesnel, W Téchouyres, C Deylaud, Y Delagüe, G Accossoberry, A Hubert. Forwards: C Calafano, L Army, P Gaillet, L Beniczech, J-M Gorzalez, M de Rougemont, O Merle, O Roumet, O Brozzati, L Cabannes, M Cécillon, P Benetton, A Beniczi, A Cozes.

**RFU change of heart, page 5**



and Lister, a fellow internationalist, and supposedly accompanied one day a week by Dan Palski, the Oxford guru, who is acting as finishing coach, but admits to spending "more time expected with the crew". Peter Haining, the world chamsculler was an onlooker. His act: "Cambridge flow around inist; Oxford punch around inish." Accurate enough.

Clubs match  
Mossley v RAF (7.30)

**RUGBY LEAGUE**

Storrie Bitter Championship  
First division  
Hemel Hempstead (7.30)  
Hull v Widnes (7.30)

Second division  
Dewsbury v Huddersfield (8.0)

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Rugby School v Wigan (J. Hodgson)  
University Liverpool (all Free Entry, £3.00)

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BOXING: World Boxing Organisation: (live) Tony Danza v Tony Danza (8.00) (live) Tony Danza v Ramon Ric Magallano (Ph) (all live)

CRICKET: South Essex, Oxted, (all 10.30); Cambridges (11.0).

TENNIS: Walsley Premier Trophy: 11.00

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## IN BRIEF

## Conner's battle wagers on two fronts

DENNIS CONNER, the master yachtsman of the America's Cup, was fighting on two fronts yesterday to avoid being knocked out of the semi-finals. The first was a race to get his *Stars & Stripes* challenger to the start line off San Diego in time to meet Bill Koch's women's crew on *Mighty Mary*. The second battle, also against Koch, this time over a change of keel on Conner's yacht, was due to be heard in the protest room last night.

The damage that forced Conner to retire on Sunday from the race against Kevin Mahaney's *Young America* proved more serious than at first envisaged and substantial changes to a yacht are usually allowed only at the end of each round of racing. Koch, whose yacht is tied in second place with *Stars & Stripes* in the defender finals, feels that, if Conner's team did not build its boat strong enough, then bad luck.

## Jet-set Wilkinson

Tennis Chris Wilkinson, the Great Britain No.3, lost to Gary Henderson in the opening rubber of the semi-final of the Vaughan Premier Trophy between Royal Berkshire Premier and SSI Matchpoint Bramhall in Nottingham yesterday, but still faces some frantic cross-country travel to fulfil commitments in Potlides (in a satellite tournament this morning) and in Nottingham (in the final this afternoon) as Royal Berkshire, the holders, won the two remaining rubbers. Paul Hand beat Mike Wyeth to level the scores then Wilkinson and Hand beat Henderson and Wyeth.

## Olympic threat

Cycling: Great Britain's planned entry of 24 men and women for the Olympic Games in Atlanta next year is under threat after a shortfall in the Sports Council's 1995 grant to the British Cycling Federation. The federation had asked the Sports Council for £180,000 but has received only £60,000.

## Records raised

Cricketer Alec Stewart, the captain of Surrey, raised a county record £202.187 during his benefit last season. Hugh Morris, his counterpart at Glamorgan, also reaped a club record, of £118,837.

## Ceron and Moneghetti promise fast times for marathon

## World's best get set to deliver race of the year



David Powell talks to last year's winner and the man who stands between him and another triumph

THE NutraSweet London Marathon champion and his main challenger for the title on Sunday were introduced to the media by David Bedford, the elite field director, yesterday as "the best two marathon runners in the world, no question about that". Changed days from 1992 when, in their only previous meeting over the distance, Dionicio Ceron and Steve Moneghetti were hardly noticed at the Barcelona Olympic marathon.

"That was a great one, wasn't it?" Moneghetti re-

question yesterday of how fast each thought he might run on Sunday, there was no coyness. If conditions are perfect, Ceron fancies himself to beat Belayneh Dinsamo's world best of 2hr 06min 50sec. Moneghetti settled for 2hr 07min 30sec.

Add two minutes for adverse weather and, either way, London seems sure, again, to witness one of the marathons of the year. Moneghetti is confident that he has prepared well enough to prevent Ceron from becoming the first man to win twice in London. He has had five weeks at altitude and has run close to his best time for 5,000 metres.

"The speed component is there and I have got the strength from the work I did at altitude," Moneghetti said. Unusually for a marathon runner, his training hardly changes from week to week. Chris Wardlaw, his coach, filled in the details:

"Everything is chucked into one week," Wardlaw said. "A hill session, a track session, a high aerobic threshold ten-mile and two long runs. The week has got that pattern for ever and a day."

"It has not got the longer intervals which the Poms love. We rejected them because we think that is what causes injury," Moneghetti has had ten years of almost injury-free running.

Ten years. Few marathon runners last so long. Moneghetti's first marathon was in the 1986 Commonwealth Games. He had been chosen for the 10,000 metres but, because Australia had one place unfilled, was allowed to take it.

In the holding room before the race, Moneghetti began to doubt his wisdom. "They showed a video of the Swiss girl [Gabriel Andersson-Scheiss] staggering to the finish of the world championships," he recalled. "I had

never covered the distance and the last person I saw before I went out was someone all over the track. It started me wondering if that would be me."

He finished third. Moneghetti has made a significant contribution to Australian sport. He was commissioned by the state of Victoria to produce the Moneghetti Report into school sport. As a result of his work, physical education is now part of the curriculum.

"You [Britain] are going through the process now that we had prior to our committee

being formed," Moneghetti said. "We had a senate review that found children were becoming unhealthy and not as active as we wanted. Victoria was the first state to do something about it and I was the chair."

Described by Wardlaw as "articulate and without a hint of arrogance," Moneghetti works, part time, as a consultant to the state education department. Not that consultation always produces results.

Pat Clohesy, Wardlaw's former coach, was consulted about the best time to stage the

marathon at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. "He told them the weather is best at 7am and they decided to put it on at 4pm," Moneghetti said. "At least they asked."

Seven of Moneghetti's 12 marathons have been championships, an unusually high ratio of races for honour against commercial appearances. He will be 37 come the Sydney Olympics and expects Atlanta 1996 to be his last. A medal there is the one thing that he wants above all else, even the \$305,000 (£135,500) for a world best on Sunday.



Moneghetti warms up yesterday to challenge Ceron for his London Marathon title

## Ideal Holmes show closes

The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes. Radio 4, 2.00pm.  
"Thank you very much, it's been fascinating." With these words, Michael Williams' Dr Watson brings down the curtain on a remarkable undertaking — the dramatisation of all 56 Sherlock Holmes short stories. I will echo the good doctor's sentiments on behalf of my fellow Baker Street fans. From time to time, I may have been acerbic about the liberties taken with the Conan Doyle texts, but the essence of the tales was only rarely diluted. I can even forgive adapter Bert Coules for bringing on all the leading characters (Moriarty excepted) to make their curtain calls. Applauding them, and particularly Clive Merrison's Holmes, made my hands sore.

The Home Front. Radio 4, 11.00pm.

Angus Calder's compilation of quotes from the Mass Observation archives, newspapers and radio broadcasts, begins with the years 1938 and 1939 when *These Foolish Things* was one of the hit songs. Foolish or ill-advised things were also what some of the mass observers said. "The time for anxiety has passed," proclaims George VI when Chamberlain returns from Munich. The snooty woman who has taken in evacuees notes their "dough-coloured" faces and concludes that livestock must have frightened their pregnant mothers. As for the arrival of West Indian cricketers, somebody says: "I'm always pleased when Negroes get on in sport." To which somebody else adds: "I prefer them to Jews!"

Peter Daville

## RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lesa 13.00am including at 12.30-12.45am Newbeat 2.00am Nicky Campbell 4.00am Clive Wainman and at 5.30-5.45am Newbeat 7.00am Evening Session 9.00am Sits from Last Week's Radio 10.00am Mark Radcliffe 11.00am Lynn Parsons

## RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Martin Kellner 8.15am Pauline Thompson 9.30am Sarah Kennedy 11.15am Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Harwood 3.30pm Evening Session 5.00pm Durrant 7.00am 8.00am Ralph McTell Presents 8.30am Sunset Hills (1/2) 9.00am Black Voices 9.30am Nigel Ogden 10.30am The Jamieson 12.00am Colin Berry 3.00am Alex Lester

## RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00am The Breakfast Programme incl. at 6.55 and 7.55am Racing Preview 8.30am The Magazine, incl. at 10.30am Euronews, 11.15am Natural History 12.00pm Midday with Mike, incl. at 12.30pm Liz Barclay with Moneycheck 2.05pm Ruscoe on Five: Football: Republic of Ireland v Northern Ireland 4.00pm John Inverdale Nationwide 5.00pm European Championship Football: Russia v Scotland 7.00pm News Extra, incl. at 7.20pm 7.25pm Gary Lineker's Football Night 8.00pm Sport v Uniquely 10.05pm News 11.00pm Night Extra, incl. at 11.45pm The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05am Up All Night

## TALK RADIO

6.00am Maurice Deane and Carol McGiffin 10.00am Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Riddman 3.00pm Tommy Boyd 7.00pm Samantha Marshall 8.00pm Roger Bogue 10.00pm The Gossip 1.00pm Wild At Heart

## RADIO 3

6.30am Open University: Maths: Transforming Graphs 6.55am Weather 7.00am On Air: Telemann (Concerto in D for three trumpets and two oboes); Schubert (The Ovaries); Op. 70; J. S. Bach (Sonata for Violin and Cello); Op. 10; Debussy (L'après-midi d'un faune); Op. 64; Op. 33 No. 8; Haydn (Trumpet Concerto in E flat)

8.00am Composer of the Week: Pierre Boulez at 70. Le marquis sans maître (Elizabeth Lawrence, mezzo); Improvisation sur Malherbe II; Pi salon pit (Phyllis Bryn-Julson, soprano); Dérive I (Ensemble InterContemporain under the composer)

10.00am Midweek Choice: Sirynsky (Graziella Priebe; Concerto in E flat, Dumbarton Oaks); Scarlatti, arr. Teusig (Pastorale; Capriccio); Berlioz (The Shepherd's Farewell, L'enfance du Christ); Mozart (Piano Sonata in A); Caldara (Alma del cor); Schubert (Trio); Debussy (Trois chansons de Bilitis); Mendelssohn (String Quartet in E flat, Op. 44 No. 3)

12.00am Ulster Orchestra under Grant Llewellyn, Suk (Scherzo fantastique); Janáček (Suite for strings); Dvorák (The Wood Dove) (P)

1.00pm Raphael Albert Trio: Haydn (Piano Trio in E flat); Mendelssohn (Piano Trio in C minor, Op. 68) (P)

2.00pm Schools: Together: An Assembly for the Day 6.30pm Time and Tune: Music Course 2 — Dig It 2.40pm Workshop

## RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00am News Briefing 6.03am Weather 6.10am Farming Today 6.25am Prayer for the Day 6.30am Today incl. 7.00, 7.20, 8.00, 8.30am News 7.25, 8.25, 9.25, 10.25am Thought for the Day 8.40am Yesterday in Parliament 8.55am Weather

9.00am News 9.05am Midweek: With three columnist Libby Purves and Michael Sheen

10.00-10.30am News: Greeting on Main Street (FM only): A study of H.J. Heinz's genius

10.00am Daily Service (LW only): 10.15am Sunday Service (LW only): A new spiritual anthology

10.30am Women's Hour: Introduced by Jenni Murray

11.30am Gardeners' Question Time: Questions from Merseyside horticultural societies (P)

12.00pm News: You and Yours, with Tessa Dool (P)

12.25pm The Chronicles of Clovis: Clovis and the Russian Princess (4/8) 12.55am Weather

1.40pm The Archers 1.55pm Shipping Forecast 2.00pm News: The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes: The Rejected Coloursman. See Choice

2.45pm Treasure Islands: Michael Rosen looks at the anarchic characters of popular children's writer/illustrator Colin MacNaughton

3.00pm News: The Afternoon Shift: With Dara Byrne

4.00pm News 4.05pm Kalescope: Brian Sibley reads a new biography of Katherine Hepburn

RADIO 1: FM 97.5-99.8. RADIO 2: FM 89-90.2. RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515kHz. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. RADIO 5: 1540kHz/1940kHz. FM 95.8. GLR: FM 94.8. WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/433kHz. LW 198kHz. (12.45-12.55pm) CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102. VIRGIN: MW 1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. TALK RADIO: MW 1089, 1053kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Deane, Gillian Massey

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer West	North-South game	Teams
♠A 10 8 3 ♥A K 10 7 5 ♦8 2 ♣K 4	♠8 7 ♥J 8 ♦J 7 6 ♣A 10 8 8 8 2	
♠6 5 ♥4 2 ♦K Q 8 4 3 ♣Q J 7 5	♠K Q J 4 2 ♥Q 9 8 5 ♦A 10 9 ♣3	

This hand occurred in the team tournament at Crans-sur-Sierre in March.

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦ (1)
Pass	4♦ (1)	Pass	4♦ (2)
Pass	4♥ (1)	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥ (3)	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: King of diamonds

By ROBERT SHEEHAN  
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

(1) Cue bids. (2) Described by Boris Schapiro as "lead inhibiting". (3) Showing two aces.

Despite Schapiro's attempt to stop a diamond lead, the grimly determined West led the king of diamonds. Just as well, as now, after drawing trumps, declarer could get a club away on the long heart before conceding a diamond. If West had led the queen of clubs, the slam would have been defeated.

Notice that Six Hearts is lay-down: the discard on the fifth spade enables North to get rid of his last diamond, before setting up a club ruff for his

twelfth trick. This hand illustrates a theme that Patrick Jourd'ain has developed for his BOLS tip, "Consider the discard". On this hand, if South had supported hearts at his second turn, North would have been able to appreciate the significance of a discard from his hand on South's long spade. (When South shows heart support and slam ambition, he is likely to have at least five spades).

At the other table, Ronnie Rubin, my partner, opened a distinctly avant-garde weak Two Diamonds on the West hand. After Two Hearts by North and Three Diamonds by me, North-South stopped in Four Hearts.

By Philip Howard

ORTANIQUE  
a. A harem girl  
b. An orange/tangerine  
c. A butterfly

PRISIADKA  
a. A Mongol breed of horse  
b. Russian ravioli  
c. A squatting dance

Answers: page 35

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

## Beating the best

Sir Stuart Milner-Barry, chess correspondent of *The Times* from 1938 to 1945, who died at the weekend, could hold his own with the best.

In games from my continuing tribute to him today, he defeats Harry Golombek, his successor as chess correspondent at *The Times*, and draws with the mighty Capablanca, who was world champion from 1921 to 1927.

White: Sir Stuart Milner-Barry  
Black: Harry Golombek  
Paignton 1955

Caro-Kann Defence	Sicilian Defence
1 e4 c5	1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 c6	2 Nf3 c6
3 Bb5	3 Bb5
4 Bxc6	4 Bxc6
5 a3	5 a3
6 Na3	6 Na3
7 Be2	7 Be2
8 d4	8 d4
9 d5	9 d5
10 c3	10 c3
11 Qd3	11 Qd3
12 Nf3	12 Nf3
13 Qd3	13 Qd3
14 Bc3	14 Bc3
15 Nc2	15 Nc2
16 Bc2	16 Bc2
17 Ne3	17 Ne3
18 g3	18 g3
19 Ng2	19 Ng2
20 Nf4	20 Nf4
21 Kg2	21 Kg2
22 g4	22 g4
23 Ne3	23 Ne3
24 Qc3	24 Qc3
25 f4	25 f4
26 Bc4	26 Bc4
27 Kf2	27 Kf2

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Lauder - Sokolov, Linares 1995. Here White found a neat combination which opened up the black kingside defences and allowed him to deliver a quick checkmate. What did he play?

Solution: page 35

WINNING MOVE

Solution: page 35

## FOR THE RECORD

## FOOTBALL

European Under-21 championship  
Group seven  
Belgium 3-1 Wales (1-1)  
Belgium 2-1 Wales (1-1)  
Belgium 1-1 Wales (1-1)  
Belgium 0-1 Wales (1-1)

Group eight  
Belgium 1-1 Scotland (1-1)  
Belgium 1-1 Scotland (1-1)  
Belgium 1-1 Scotland (1-1)  
Belgium 1-1 Scotland (1-1)

Other matches: Group one: Romania 1-0 Poland 3 (in Bucharest); Slovakia 3 Azerbaijan 0 (in Presov); Group two: Czech Republic 2 Bulgaria 0 (in Geneva); Group seven: Georgia 0 Germany 2 (in Berlin)

VAUGHAN CONFERENCE: Postponed: David v Woking  
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Postponed: Third division: East Stirling v Queen's Park; AVON INSURANCE CONFERENCE: First division: Wotton v West Ham 2

Monday's late results  
VAUGHAN CONFERENCE: Both 0 Halifax 0, Kidderminster 1 Dagenham and Redbridge 1

UNIONBOND NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier division: Gillingham 1-1 Hyde; Second division: Curzon Ashton 3 Farnley Cleve 1; First division: Curzon Ashton 3 Farnley Cleve 1

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Semi-final draw: Kidderminster Harriers v Hyde United; Bristol City v Hyde United; Bristol City v Hyde United

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Sheringham gets chance to make most of wintery Wembley conditions

# England draw cold comfort as Cole sits out

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Napoleon Bonaparte mused about having generals who were lucky, he might have guessed that Terry Venables would one day lead the troops at Wembley. Going into battle tonight without Cole to score the goals, the England coach has called up the coldest blast of winter weather in the long history of games against Uruguay. Come kick-off time, those Latin opponents whom we have found impossible to beat for the past 26 years will find another cold shiver around their ears, another night when the London temperature is 30°C lower than their custom.

This is the way to beat those Uruguayans who, forgetting any gratitude that it was British railway workers who taught them to kick leather, had the temerity to win at Wembley the last time they visited in 1990. Our error that year, and on every other occasion that we have met Uruguay, was to play the game on a summer evening.

John Barnes, the England scorer in a 2-1 defeat, is the only survivor, though Paul Gascoigne, who also played in that match, is nearly fit again. Peter Beardsley, 34 years young, appeared in the match as a substitute, and of course starts tonight as the prompt

Whereas Beardsley admits that he had a rare night in Dublin where, though the game lasted only 27 minutes, he struggled to find his touch,

for Venables' preferred lone forward, Teddy Sheringham. It is interesting that Uruguay and England, having shared so much down the years, find themselves in such similar situations. England rank twentieth on Fifa's list of form; Uruguay are 36th. Both nations missed the World Cup party last summer, both are rebuilding to host major tournaments — Uruguay the Copa America next summer, England, of course, the 1996 European championship.

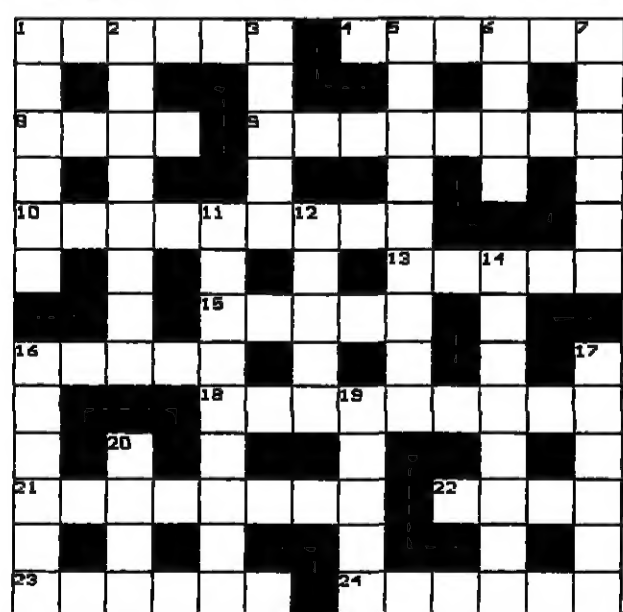
McDonald returns ..... 37  
Jackson's baptism ..... 37  
Upbeat Smith ..... 37

## TONIGHT'S TEAMS AT WEMBLEY

ENGLAND (4-4-1-1)	URUGUAY (probable) (4-3-1-2)
T Flowers (Blackburn Rovers)	O Ferro (Paraná)
R Jones (Liverpool)	D Lopez (River Plate)
A Adams (Arsenal)	O Aguilar (Paraná)
G Pallister (Manchester Utd)	A Gutiérrez (Nacional)
G Le Saux (Blackburn Rovers)	R Montoya (Atalanta)
J Barnes (Liverpool)	D Dorla (Paraná)
B Venison (Newcastle Utd)	G Cordas (River Plate)
D Platt (Sampdoria)	P Bengoechea (Paraná)
D Anderton (Tottenham Hotspur)	E Francescoli (River Plate)
P Beardsley (Newcastle Utd)	G Poyet (Real Zaragoza)
E Sheringham (Tottenham Hotspur)	D Fonseca (Roma)

Referee: H Krug (Germany)  
Substitutes to be named tonight

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 432

## ACROSS

- 1 Court case: attraction (6)
- 4 Skirmish (6)
- 8 Moment: parasitic arachnid (4)
- 9 One righting abuses (8)
- 10 Decide to stop (4,1,4)
- 13 Mendicant monk (5)
- 15 Steam bath (5)
- 16 Collector's item (5)
- 18 Permission to proceed: gap (9)
- 21 Violent disturbance (8)
- 22 Electoral district: Mrs Humphry - (4)
- 23 Basket: hinder (6)
- 24 Rapid (6)

## SOLUTION TO NO 431

- ACROSS: 6 Not give a hoot 7 Winnow 8 Outset 9 Bear  
10 Go-getter 12 Body shop 16 Undo 18 Diadem 20 Suburb  
21 Merry-go-round  
DOWN: 1 Stingray 2 Bigwig 3 Belong 4 Chit 5 Popeye  
6 Noise 11 Thumbs up 13 Oliver 14 Homage 15 Pastry  
17 Dared 19 Dark

TIMES PUBLICATIONS: The Times Guides: English Style & Usage (Hb) £8.99, International Finance, Japan, Nations of the World, Middle East, Good University Guide 1994-95, Single European Market £9.99 each, Peoples of Europe (Hb) £16.99, European Parliament - June 94 (Hb) £26, The Times Guide to the New British State (Hb) £17.99, The Times Maps (Folded): The World £5.30, £5.99, Ireland 26" x 33" £3.99, British Isles 33" x 36" £5.99, Miscellaneous: The Times Night Sky 1995 £4.50, The Times Illustrated World History (Pb) £13.99, NEW The Times Illustrated History of the World (Hb) £24, The Sunday Times Book of Answers £4.50, Book of Brain Teasers £5.49, Prices include P&P (UK). Send cheques with order payable to Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Delivery to 8 days. Tel 0181 582 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

so the Uruguayans bring back Enzo Francescoli, now 33. No longer the quick D'Artagnan figure he once was, Francescoli nevertheless possesses all of the cunning of Beardsley and more. Tall, gaunt and sometimes too deep in his thoughts to concentrate solely on football, he was the great unfulfilled Uruguayan of the World Cup finals of 1986; a creator surrounded by players given licence to butchery.

Clearly this is no longer as gifted a Uruguayan side as the ones who, representing a nation of three million people, have produced twice as many World Cup successes as have England. Uruguay won the trophy in both 1930 and 1950 and, all through their history, their sport has been characterised by great technical beauty laced with considerable poison.

On form, England should have little to fear tonight. They are unbeaten under Venables and Uruguay have drawn two of their past four games — each time 2-2 against Spain and the United States — lost 1-0 in Mexico and won 1-0 in Peru. For statisticians, the only Uruguayan sent off in those games was Nelson Gutiérrez, the ageing defender, one of the few survivors of 1986.

However, when playing at home, it is customary to contemplate victory, to concentrate indeed on the strengths that we hope we possess. Venables, for all that he allowed the media to concentrate on Andy Cole and Jamie Redknapp in the build-up to this match, probably never intended to stray from the style or the make-up that has begun to form a dependable nucleus of his side for 1996.

There is Tim Flowers in goal in place of the injured David Seaman, a change that could easily become permanent. The back four — Jones, Adams, Pallister, Le Saux — are almost fixtures, though Fonseca and Francescoli running them along the ground may unhinge them.

And, in a midfield of Anderton, Platt and Barnes, there is a "new" anchor, Barry Venison. Hardly young at 30, he replaces Ince and, having had one cap against the United States, he may well consolidate a place in the squad and may even be more reliable in the defensive mode than Ince and Platt between them appeared in Dublin.

That leaves Beardsley roaming and Sheringham, with his back to goal, trying to thread attacks for midfield runners. "Teddy does not get recognition for a lot of what he does," Venables, his coach at Tottenham before the brusque parting of the ways, observes. "You either appreciate Teddy, or you don't." Appreciation tonight may be in the eye of the beholder.

## Double celebration for Rackemann

Simon Wilde explains why Queenslanders were in joyful mood at the Gabba yesterday

HAVING squandered numerous golden opportunities to lay their hands on Australia's inter-state trophy in the previous 68 years, Queensland's cricketers yesterday won the Sheffield Shield for the first time with a ruthlessness that told of previous frustrations. In beating South Australia in Brisbane, they achieved a higher total (664) and a larger margin of victory (an innings and 101 runs) than any previous team in a Shield final. As Queensland had finished top of the qualifying stages, technically a draw would have been enough; emotionally, only an outright win was sufficient.

When the last South Australia wicket fell, to a catch by Carl Rackemann, the longest-serving member of the team, thousands of spectators swarmed onto the ground to congratulate the winners. Rackemann, 34, soon had further cause for rejoicing when he heard of his call-up to the Australia team touring



Venables, the England coach, prepares a chilly reception for Uruguay during squad training yesterday

## Gascoigne cleared to return

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAUL GASCOIGNE will be back in action again in two weeks' time. His medical team announced yesterday. The injury-plagued England player, who broke his leg a year ago,

has been cleared to return by Dr Claudio Bartolini, the team doctor at his club, Lazio, and by his specialist, Maurizio Manzini.

In a statement issued through Gascoigne's London-based surgeon, John Browner, Manzini said: "Dr Bartolini and myself have been in discussion regarding Paul Gascoigne. We are both of the opinion that he will be able to

return to full match-play football from the second week of April, as it is felt that his right tibia has gained enough strength.

This decision has been carefully made, as the player himself has no physical inhibitions or limitations. The player will return to the field wearing a fully protective shin guard."

A trim-looking Gascoigne appeared at an England training session at Bisham Abbey over the weekend, but he was shielded from any work involving physical contact. The 27-year-old linchpin of

England's 1990 World Cup campaign, who has fought a constant battle against a tendency to put on weight, is said to have lost 44lb during his latest fitness drive.

Terry Venables, the England coach, who signed Gascoigne for Tottenham Hotspur from Newcastle United, before selling him to Lazio, may invite the midfield player to a further squad session at the end of April.

Venables wants Gascoigne in contention for the foundation tournament involving Brazil, Japan and Sweden in June.

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## Elf contend race fuel 'rigorously respected' regulations

By OLIVER HOIT

ELF, the French oil company, said yesterday that the fuel it supplied to teams for the Brazilian Grand Prix on Sunday was legal and obeyed rules set by the International Automobile Federation (FIA).

The Benetton and Williams teams lodged appeals after their drivers, Michael Schumacher and David Coulthard, were disqualified for allegedly using illegal fuel. Schumacher, the world champion driver, finished in first place, with Coulthard second.

The procedure Elf followed for the making of the fuels used in the Brazilian Grand Prix by the seven teams it supplies rigorously respected the rules set by the FIA, the Paris-based company said.

Five of the teams Elf supply were not found to have been using the wrong fuel. A statement criticised motor racing authorities for not supplying details of the fuel tests, and for not allowing the teams to consult experts before disqualifying the drivers.

Elf, which said it had never been sanctioned in 28 years of supplying Formula One, urged the teams to demand that the FIA send them details of the tests and said it would conduct independent checks.

Bernie Ecclestone, president of the Formula One Constructors' Association, said last night it was probable that every Formula One driver would be weighed again before the next grand prix, in Argentina in ten days' time.

His comments come in the wake of the controversy surrounding the fluctuating weight of Schumacher. When Schumacher was weighed after the grand prix on Sunday, he was found to be more than five kilograms less than his entry weight on the official list, which had been compiled three days earlier.

The weight difference led to suspicions that Schumacher had been trying to take advantage of new regulations to run with a lighter car, although an unscheduled check after the race found that the driver and his car complied.

FIA inspectors are satisfied with changes at the Imola track, where Ayrton Senna and Roland Ratzenberger died in accidents, last year, paving the way for approval of the San Marino Grand Prix on April 30.

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